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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Irrelevant' ARPA-funded jobs to be axed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Once they take office in January, the incoming Palacios-Apatang administration does not plan to renew ARPA-funded jobs that are not "meaningful" or "impactful" to the community, according to governor-elect Arnold Palacios.

In a press briefing last Monday, Palacios said that "irrelevant" jobs created under the American Rescue Plan Act—which poured millions of dollars into the CNMI—will soon cease to exist once he takes office in accordance with their campaign pledge "to make a difference." However, jobs and positions that have

See ARPA on Page 4

OFF TO THE RACES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Reigning Miss Marianas Savannah Lyn Relox Delos Santos poses for the camera before traveling to Tokyo, Japan, yesterday morning to compete at the upcoming Miss International pageant on Dec. 13, 2022, representing the Northern Marianas. Follow Stellar Marianas on Facebook and @missnorthernmarianas on Instagram for more coverage and updates.

CUC lowers FAC in December

Expect to see lower charges in your December billing from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

A CUC news release yesterday stated that it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices that will affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge, or FAC.

As a result, the current FAC rate will be reduced by $.01875 from $0.34235 per kWh to $0.32360 per kWh

See CUC on Page 4

House passes SOCA bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill that establishes the process for the delivery of the governor's State of the Commonwealth Address.

Yumul

Sablan

All 19 House members present vin yesterday's session voted "yes" to the passage of House Bill 22-119, which was co-sponsored by House majority members. Floor leader Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) introduced the legislation.

The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

See HOUSE on Page 4

Ex-Guam medical examiner Espinola passes away

Dr. Aurelio Espinola, Guam's former chief medical examiner who also performed forensics services for the CNMI, has died in the Philippines.

Espinola's demise was learned after 36th Guam Legislature Speaker Therese Terlaje issued a statement last night expressing great sadness after learning of Espinola's passing. The cause of his demise and his age were not immediately available as of yesterday.

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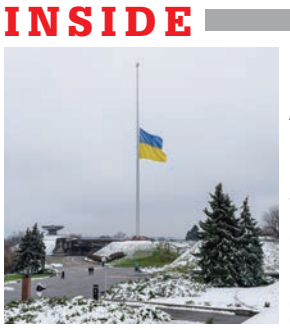

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Local

Study highlights need for federal data equity in US territories

Residents of U.S. territories are treated as second-class citizens in many obvious ways: they cannot vote for President, are denied voting representation in Congress, and are ineligible for many critical federal benefits programs. But one area that is often overlooked is how residents of U.S. territories are rendered invisible by unequal treatment in the federal statistical system, including the U.S. Decennial Census. With the 2020 Census reporting a population decline of more than 11% in U.S. territories, the need for timely and accurate data collection in these communities is more important than ever.

A new study by the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality's Economic Security and Opportunity Initiative and Equally American titled "Advancing Data Equity for U.S. Territories" seeks to spotlight the urgent need for treating residents of U.S. territories the same as residents of other U.S. jurisdictions when it comes to the census and other federal data collection programs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A new study titled "Advancing Data Equity for U.S. Territories" spotlights the need for treating residents of U.S. territories the same as residents of other U.S. jurisdictions when it comes to the census and other federal data collection programs.

"When the federal government fails to treat residents of U.S. territories the same as residents of other U.S. jurisdictions in federal data collection, it sends the message that they do not count—both literally and figuratively. Whether you live in a state, territory, or the District of Columbia should not impact how you and your community are counted in the U.S. Census and other federal statistics," said Neil Weare, president of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights in U.S. territories, and a co-author. "Data equity in U.S. territories is something the Biden administration can largely fix without the need for congressional action. As we approach the 125th anniversary of the United States holding overseas colonies, the time to act on this is now."

"People living in U.S. territories—who are disproportionately people of color—face serious challenges, including pervasive social and economic inequality and increased vulnerability to the impacts of the climate crisis. Improving data collection efforts in territories is a matter of racial justice. " said Jae June Lee, a Policy and Data Analyst at GCPI ESOI, which seeks to alleviate poverty and inequality and advance racial and gender equity in the United States, and the lead author**.** "Inequality in data collection programs reflects and sometimes deepens discrimination against these communities of color."

"Federal data paints an incomplete portrait of America, excluding many people living in territories," said Cara Brumfield, associate director at GCPI ESOI and co-author. "Policymakers need timely and accurate data to develop evidence-based policy solutions that address the challenges facing U.S. territory residents. It is time people in U.S. territories are counted the same as people in other U.S. jurisdictions."

The new study highlights how 3.6 million residents of five U.S. territories—a population equal to that of the five least populous states—are excluded from many federal statistical programs. exacerbating an array of economic, social, and other challenges for these communities.

The study makes four policy recommendations:

■ Conduct a comprehensive review of data collection gaps, the impact missing data have on territorial communities, and the steps required to include territorial residents in key federal data collections.

■ Revise and strengthen standards, policies, and norms in federal departments and agencies regarding the treatment of U.S. territories in the statistical system.

■ Better integrate U.S. territories into decennial census operations and data product releases.

■ Ensure adequate federal funding and staffing to consistently include all U.S. territories in major statistical surveys and programs.

This new study follows a Nov. 15, 2022, letter from GCPI ESOI and Equally American to the U.S. Census Bureau proposing ways to improve the collection and distribution of data on U.S. territories in the 2030 Census. ***(PR)***

Japanese crew to film documentary on Rota coffee

LEIGH GASES

From left, David M. Sablan, Shigeo Nakaya, Hiroko Stewart, CNMI Associate Justice Perry Inos Sr., and Hiroshi Masuda pose for a photo after the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting on Tuesday. Nakaya and Masuda, from Temjin TV in Japan, will film a documentary on coffee grown in the CNMI.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

A Japanese television crew from Temjin TV in Japan are on Rota to put together a documentary program on the history of Rota's wild coffee trees.

Television director Hiroshi Masuda and his cameraman, Shigeo Nakaya, arrived on Saipan last Sunday to meet with David M. Sablan or "Uncle Dave" and were his guests at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday.

Sablan said the pair will fly to Rota and stay there for two weeks to gather information on the island's coffee. They will then create a documentary to be shown in the CNMI's channel 4, or NHK Japanese, around February next year.

After the Rotary meeting, Masuda elaborated on their plans: "I'm making a documentary program focused on coffee growing [on] Rota, which has just started. The thing is, they found wild coffee trees among the forest [on] Rota and it's so obvious that it's not natural—it was most likely left over from Japanese time."

Masuda said his other purpose is to investigate the history of coffee growing in the CNMI, and he intends to collaborate with Sablan on this subject, as Sablan may remember the Japanese occupation of Saipan and holds a wealth of information on its history.

Masuda and Nakaya will create the documentary, but there are six others on the team that will help them out on Rota.

Masuda is a director for Temjin TV, which is a production company that develops stories, primarily focused on documentary-style programs.

Previously, in 2018, The Ueshima Coffee Co., or UCC in Japan, along with KFC Triathlon Club, gathered Rota coffee beans for UCC's investigatory and testing work to determine Rota's coffee bean quality. No updated plans have been disclosed since then.

To read more of KFC Triathlon Club's story on Rota coffee, visit their website at kfctriathlon.com.

Babauta: We are not trying to stop the BOOST Program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, assured yesterday that they are not trying to stop in any way the Torres administration's Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST Program.

"There is a common misconception out there. And we are not trying to do that. There is no intention to do so," said Babauta during a House session.

She disclosed that she has received numerous calls, messages, and emails regarding not only from the BOOST applicants, but the community at large regarding their concerns about the program and the anxiety they're reportedly creating.

The House's JGO Committee and the Ways and Means Committee have been issuing subpoenas to compel some entities and persons to produce and testify related to the BOOST Program.

The two committees will hold a joint meeting tomorrow, Friday, in their bid to find out, among other things, who have been awarded funds under the program and those who have been denied, or are still awaiting disposition.

House Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) recently stated that he is concerned that many of those who have applied for BOOST funding may not be aware of the potential detrimental effects this funding may have on the recipients.

Babauta said yesterday that there is no attempt to stop the BOOST Program by her committee and the Ways and Means Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota). Babauta said what they are merely trying to do is seek answers that no one in the Torres administration is willing to provide them without being compelled to do so.

The JGO chair said the issue before the committees is that on Nov. 15, 2022, they wrote to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, the Office of the Governor, and Bank of Saipan, seeking answers as to what the program's process is and procedures. She said they also inquired what policies are in place, the criteria, and the amounts that have been awarded.

Babauta said the recipients of those letters have failed to respond or communicate with either committee so they sent a follow-up email after missing the first deadline to produce the requested documents.

She said when they also missed the second deadline, it was only then that the committees were compelled jointly to subpoena Atalig, Deleon Guerrero, chief of staff to the governor William Castro, BOS, and Bank of Guam.

"And at this time, we are still awaiting documents from the entities that we have issued subpoenas to," said Babauta, adding that it's only the BOG that has responded to their subpoena.

She said Atalig, Castro, and BOS have asked to be given more time. She said they obliged and gave a few more days of extension in the spirit of cooperation and accommodation.

She said Deleon Guerrero was only served with a subpoena this past Tuesday because they can't find him and that it was also a long Thanksgiving weekend last week. Babauta said they gave Deleon Guerrero until Tuesday next week to provide documents.

"After we receive the documents from these entities we will then decide as a joint committee how to move forward with the BOOST Program and the documents that we have received," she said.

The JGO chair said they are simply trying to get answers for the people who have applied for funding and others who may also have questions.

"I'm currently meeting with several of the applicants at this time. They've requested some of my time, and I willingly do so to gather information," Babauta said.

She said the joint committees are trying to just gather information so they can put it out there in the public.

"There is nothing in the website for the BOOST Program that alludes to any type of policy or procedure or who qualifies for how much. We've been hearing disparity in the awards of these funds," she added.

The BOOST Program is a project of the Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce that aims to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The BOS is the administrator of the program.

UOG graduate student studying Guam's native freshwater eels

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Karina Mejia holds a freshwater eel. For her master's biology thesis at the University of Guam, she is looking into the genetics and migration of Guam's most common river eel.

Karina Mejia, a graduate student studying biology at the University of Guam within the National Science Foundation EPSCoR program, is looking to answer some unknowns about Guam's most common river eel—the giant mottled eel, or marbled eel.

The species (*Anguilla marmorata*) could be sustainably managed as a local food source, but little is known about it on the island.

Mejia wants to find out where in the ocean they spawn and what time of year they journey upstream in Guam's freshwater rivers—both critical pieces of information in order to sustainably fish them in the wild or to raise them.

Mejia and her research mentor, UOG associate professor of Biology Daniel Lindstrom, are also hoping to use a technique known as otolith microchemistry to trace their migration patterns.

"People have been catching them year-round. […] So that's why I'm looking at the otoliths—hopefully to trace back their movement throughout the ocean to where they were spawned," Mejia said.

Mejia will be looking for native eels at Guam's river openings and encourages the public to share to mejiak@gotritons.uog.edu when and where they may have seen them.

She hopes to have enough data by next fall.

To read more, go to https://www.uog.edu/news-announcements/2021-2022/2022-uog-graduate-student-studying-guams-native-freshwater-eels.php ***(UOG)***

Rip currents until Sunday afternoon

The public on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Agrihan are being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through Sunday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east facing reefs of the Marianas through sunday afternoon. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

According to the NWS, a trade-wind swell will maintain surf of up to nine feet and create a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs the next several days. By late week, northeasterly trade swell will increase and will likely cause surf along north facing reefs to also increase. This could result in a high risk of rip currents along north reefs and hazardous surf along both north and east facing reefs for the weekend.

The public is being advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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House resolution honors first female local certified commercial diver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives presented yesterday a House resolution to commend Dina A. Tenorio in honor and recognition as the first female indigenous person from the CNMI to become a certified commercial diver.

Authored by Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), House Resolution 22-23, also commends Tenorio for her success as a young entrepreneur in the CNMI.

The resolution states that, with 15 years of experience as a female commercial diver in a "male-dominated" industry, Tenorio has traveled to various locations worldwide and has had the opportunity to lead, supervise, and manage projects in remote locations and in the middle of the ocean where the closest land was days away.

The lawmaker said Tenorio always intended to return home and engage in entrepreneurial activities and give back to the community she left behind to advance her education and harness her skill set which she can now share with the future generation who share her love and passion of the ocean.

Guerrero said he met Tenorio during the 20th Legislature when she approached him and proposed having a hyperbaric chamber in the CNMI,

At the time, he said, had a bill drafted that would charge $10 for every dive of each tourist for the purpose of securing this hyperbaric chamber at the Commonwealth Health Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this screen grab from YouTube, Dina Tenorio is presented with a House resolution commending her as the first female indigenous person from the CNMI to become a certified commercial diver, during a House of Representatives session yesterday. Also in the photo is the resolution's author, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), House members, Tenorio's parents, and family members.

"Her experience and specialties are beyond recognition," said Guerrero. "Dina, you earned this from the House 22nd Legislature that was passed through a committee as a whole. And we want to honor you for your dedication as the first female to take this daunting task to be a master diver."

Tenorio said she would have never imagined herself receiving such a recognition 24 years ago.

Tenorio said she was part of a non-profit organization called Tanapag Action Group several years ago, in which shed data on PCB scattered all over Tanapag. "This chemical was left behind by the military and it surrounded my sanctuary," she said.

Tenorio said it was the Tanapag Action Group that would represent the stepping stone that led to her amazing future opportunities.

After this experience, Tenorio worked for the Division of Environmental Quality, in which she was introduced to the world of diving.

"The infield experience and knowledge that I gained created a desire to learn more about underwater opportunities," she said.

Not too long after Tenorio worked for DEQ, a non-profit organization based in Hawaii gave her a chance to work for the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council in Guam.

Tenorio said she packed her bag and started another journey as an environmental technician that required diving and collaboration with the Guam Department Fish and Wildlife.

Tenorio said she did some research and discovered the National Polytechnic College of Oceaneering Engineering. "Once again, I packed my bags and moved to San Diego and continued my learning journey," she said.

Tenorio spent a year there studying commercial diving with specialty in non-destructive testing. "I did it. I was a certified commercial diver," she said.

Tenorio then worked in Louisiana for offshore diving companies doing pipeline construction for the oil and gas industry.

She said the road to being an offshore commercial diver in the industry was one of the toughest and most challenging experience she had ever endured.

"But at the same time, it was one of the best experiences of my life," she said.

Two years later, Tenorio was finally given the official title as a commercial diver and not just a tender diver.

"Fast forward to today, I am standing before you as a humble business owner, a hard-working certified commercial driver. And I stand before you as the only female underwater welder in the CNMI," she said.

She encouraged the future generations to dream big and turn those dreams into a reality.

The commercial diving industry is considered a male-dominated industry. As of 2017, there were approximately 3,300 commercial divers in the world and only 0.3% of that were females.

Tenorio graduated from Marianas High School and went on to attend the Northern Marianas College where she majored in Computer Science and Business Management. In 2007, she graduated from the College of Oceaneering in Aero Court, California with a commercial diving certificate with specialty of non-destructive testing on ultrasonic testing level 1 certificate.

She extended her education by obtaining additional certificates. She performed, among other things, deep sea pipeline construction in the Gulf of Mexico for the oil and gas projection industry.

Tenorio is also a certified diver medic and is authorized and certified to temporarily treat certain injuries onsite until the proper authorities arrive.

ARPA

From Page 1

will make a difference for the CNMI in the future may be extended past the Dec. 30 expiration date.

"So I'm going to be very honest to the public, I cannot promise that your job, which was supposed to expire on Dec. 30, is going to be extended. We're going to take a look at all these jobs and look at the relevance of these positions. For me, a lot of these position are temporary in nature. People should know that and the functionality of what they were hired to do is going to be critical because we need to put together our priorities. We know that ARPA funds are going to disappear soon. Because of that, we need to make sure that the programs that are being funded or ran are impactful and meaningful to the CNMI and aren't just employment opportunities," Palacios said.

"I'm not going to renew a position just because there are still ARPA funds left, even though I believe [they] are wasteful. I wouldn't be making the difference that I promised," he added.

Fortunately, Palacios said, he has reviewed a number of the employment positions created under ARPA, and a lot of them could make a difference in the CNMI, especially in its journey to recovery.

"I've looked at some of the programs and some of the projects that were initiated under ARPA. Some of them I question the relevance, but some of them are well put together and meaningful and impactful to the community," he said.

Overall, Palacios said he wants to give the community a heads up that if their position was created under ARPA, the position or program will be looked into and if it does not prove beneficial to the community, it will not be extended past the Dec. 30 expiration date.

"If the initial employment contracts they have is only up to Dec. 30, then that's it. I'm not going to terminate people and disrupt their life. But I just want to give everyone the time to potentially look for other employment. However, if your program is being funded under ARPA, and it is meaningful, impactful, and should continue, we will continue," he said.

CUC

From Page 1

effective today, Dec. 1, 2022.

This becomes a double-win for CUC residential customers. Earlier, the Torres administration approved the release of $300 in utilities vouchers for all residential customers of CUC to cover utility payments in November and December. Essentially, this means that many CNMI residents will potentially not be paying any CUC bill this December.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing provided by Mobil equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

HOUSE

From Page 1

Under the bill, the governor shall deliver an annual SOCA to the Legislature no later than March of any calendar year, and may present the SOCA live, recorded, or in writing.

Prior to any live SOCA, the governor shall give written notice of a proposed date and time to both the Senate president and House speaker no later than 45 days prior to the proposed date in order for the Legislature to consider a joint resolution setting out the time and place for the SOCA.

Before the voting, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) thanked Yumul and her colleagues for taking the initiative to establish the SOCA process.

"It put some, I guess, common sense and order into how the State of the Commonwealth Address should be delivered and received," Sablan said.

She believes that recent events highlighted the need for a SOCA process and for some clarity and how this is conducted.

Sablan was referring to an impasse when the Senate and House adopted different dates and venues for SOCA. This prompted Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to cancel his planned SOCA at Kensington Hotel indefinitely.

EX-GUAM

From Page 1

According to Terlaje's statement, Espinola began working at the Guam Memorial Hospital in 1993 and retired in 2019. After 25 years of service to the people of Guam, Espinola returned to his home in the Philippines.

It was learned from Terlaje's statement that Espinola actually delayed his retirement, from the age of 65 to 77 years old, and extended his term as chief medical examiner through January 2019, "recognizing that finding his replacement as medical examiner would challenge the government and out of concern for the public."

As a symbol of gratitude on behalf of the people of Guam, Espinola was honored via Resolution by the 32nd and 34th Guam legislatures.

Terlaje's statement adds: "Dr. Espinola, the son of a dressmaker and a soldier, candidly expressed that his inspiration to become a doctor was borne out of poverty. After being refused treatment for his brother at a young age because his family lacked money, he resolved to become a medical professional and remained inspired by his commitment to assist those who could not pay for medical services. He studied obstetrics and gynecology and subsequently became an OB/GYN, then studied anesthesiology and forensic pathology. Understanding the importance of the presentation of good forensic investigations as an aid for justice in court, he also studied at South Texas College of Law.

"Dr. Espinola was also known as an avid boxer, for his sense of humor, and for his love of cooking good food, having studied for two years at the Guam Community College under their culinary program.

"Dr. Espinola dedicated so much of his life in service to the people of Guam. On behalf of the 36th Guam Legislature and the people of Guam I would like to express a sincere *Un Dångkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to his family and send our sincerest condolences," Terlaje's statement said.

The CNMI, which does not have its own forensic pathologist, regularly employed Espinola's services when he was still in Guam and he would fly to Saipan to perform autopsies when needed. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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MVA, partners light up the night for the holiday season

The Marianas Visitors Authority has undertaken several holiday lights projects to brighten the holidays in the Marianas.

With the sponsorship support of local companies, the main thoroughfare of Beach Road will be illuminated today, Dec. 1, with iconic Christmas scenes from Garapan to Susupe. Sponsoring companies are Lollipops, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Century Hotel, iShop, DFS T Galleria, Marpac, E-Land Group, and Docomo Pacific.

"We're pleased to bring back our roadside holiday series of light displays this year, with some new additions," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "Most especially, we thank the local businesses who have helped make it possible, as well as the Department of Public Lands, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Office of Indigenous Affairs, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Saipan Zoning Office, and the Office of Grants Management for their partnership in making this project come to life.. And we invite the public to also stop by Garapan Fishing Base to see our Christmas display over the course of our Christmas in the Marianas celebration starting this weekend."

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Garapan Fishing Base is being readied Wednesday with Christmas décor that will be displayed over the course of the Christmas in the Marianas celebration.

The MVA's annual signature event will kick off on Saturday, Dec. 3, at Garapan Fishing Base from 5pm to 9pm and will also be held on Dec. 10 and 17, 2022, and Jan. 7, 2023. The event features live holiday entertainment, food and drink sales, a mini Christmas Village, and a walk-through experience featuring light sculptures of indigenous symbols.

On Rota the MVA is partnering with the Rota Mayor's Office on a contest for the best decorated house. Registration is open for Rota homeowners at the Rota Mayor's Office until 2:30pm on Dec. 9, 2022. Judging will be held on Dec. 13, 2022. The MVA and Rota Mayor's Office are sponsoring cash prizes for the competition: $1,000 for first place, $700 for second place, and $500 for third place. For more information or an application, contact the Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451 ext. 105 or email cpgorota2015@gmail.com.

On Tinian a contest for best decorated building will be held in two categories: residential and business/government office, and a children's caroling and costume contest will be held. For more information, contact MVA Tinian field operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 433-9365. ***(MVA)***

NMC graduate passes NCLEX-RN

Marianne Sembrano, a graduate of Northern Marianas College's nursing class of 2022, recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

Sembrano

"It's great to see more and more NMC nursing graduates pass the challenging NCLEX-RN," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. said. "I congratulate Marianne on this accomplishment."

NMC department chair Rosa Aldan also congratulated Sembrano on her achievement. "Marianne has a bright future in the nursing field and we expect to see great things from her as her educational and professional journey continues," Aldan said.

According to Sembrano, she wanted to pursue a nursing degree as it offers job security and financial stability.

"Nursing is a respected career," Sembrano said. "I think what fueled my passion and motivation is the joy I get knowing that at the end of the day, I am able to save someone's life or take care of them to the best of my abilities."

Sembrano added that the support she received from her family, friends, and NMC helped her succeed in passing the NCLEX.

"Two weeks leading up to exam day, everyone kept telling me that I'll do great," Sembrano said. "They told me that they believed in me—that if I don't pass, they won't look at me differently. Hearing those words reassured me and provided me with the confidence that I needed to get through my exam."

In addition, the integration of Kaplan's online resources into the NMC Nursing Program curriculum helped Sembrano pass the exam.

"I think the Nursing Department made a great decision having Kaplan available as a resource that nursing students can use during and after the program," Sembrano said. "The format of the test prep course is identical to the NCLEX, so it felt like I was taking just another exam in nursing school."

For the other nursing students who plan to take the exam, Sembrano advises them to always be confident. "Remember that you studied hard enough," Sembrano said. "Remember that you know the content—and as cheesy as it sounds, remember that you got this. On the off-chance that you do fail, take it again. Don't let failure stop you from achieving your goals of becoming a nurse."

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-005

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ASADRA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **December 6, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-002, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 20, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 8, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

OLIVER M. MANGLONA, ESQ. (F0489)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Shawn Kyle Odsinada Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANTHONY SABLAN CAMACHO, JR., Deceased.

- **Civil Action No. 22-0253**
- **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR; and**
- **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
- Date: December 15, 2022
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTHONY SABLAN CAMACHO, JR. OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Shawn Kyle Odsinada Camacho has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Administrator for the Estate of Anthony Sablan Camacho, Jr., the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Oliver M. Manglona**, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 14th day of November, 2022.

/s/
Clerk of Court/
Deputy Clerk of Court

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 05, 2022
10:00 a.m., NMTech Lower Base Campus

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
  a. September 29, 2022
IV. Public Comments
V. Unfinished Business
  a. NMTech By-Laws
  b. Nominating Committee Tinian BoT Vacancy
VI. New Business
  a. NMTech Policies Promulgation
  b. FY 2022 Annual Report
  c. FY 2024 Budget Request
  d. Five-year Strategic Plan
VII. Committee Updates
  a. Finance
  b. Personnel
  c. Programs
  d. Foundation
VIII. Sub-committee Updates
  a. EDA Construction Project
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

Church donates office equipment to Pohnpei veterans' group…

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently donated two laptop computers, a color laser printer, and toner cartridges to the U.S. Veterans Association in Pohnpei, which serves as an advocacy, liaison, and lobby group for veterans' interest and benefit.

According to a church news release, the computer and printer are for administrative use to support veterans in Pohnpei, along with training high school students in preparation to take the military exam, known as ASVAB.

The church said it is always on the lookout for opportunities to partner with non-profit organizations, sometimes helping them to get their feet on the ground, and this donation will be an indispensable source of information that can be helpful for prospective enlistees prior, during, and after service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

It was Herman Semes Jr, president of the U.S. Veterans Association in Pohnpei, who first reached out to the Micronesia Guam Humanitarian Department about their need for donations.

USVA has 102 registered members in their organization with the number increasing as veterans return to Pohnpei after retirement or ETS (Expiration of Term of Service) from the U.S. Armed Forces.

The purpose of organizing US Veterans of Pohnpei into an association is to be recognized by the FSM national government, Pohnpei state government, and the U.S. government to serve as a community outreach resource and information center in the State of Pohnpei for men, women, and youth seeking opportunities in the U.S. Armed Forces. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donates two laptop computers, a color laser printer, and toner cartridges to the U.S. Veterans Association in Pohnpei.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Herman Semes Jr., center, president of the U.S. Veterans Association in Pohnpei, had reached out to the church's Micronesia Guam Humanitarian Department about their need for donations.

. . . and to Pohnpei Women with Disability Organization

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donates five sewing machines, cases, and sewing kits to the Pohnpei Women With Disability Organization.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has donated five sewing machines, cases, and sewing kits to the Pohnpei Women with Disability Organization, which is a non-profit organization specifically advocating for individuals with disabilities run by and for women with disabilities.

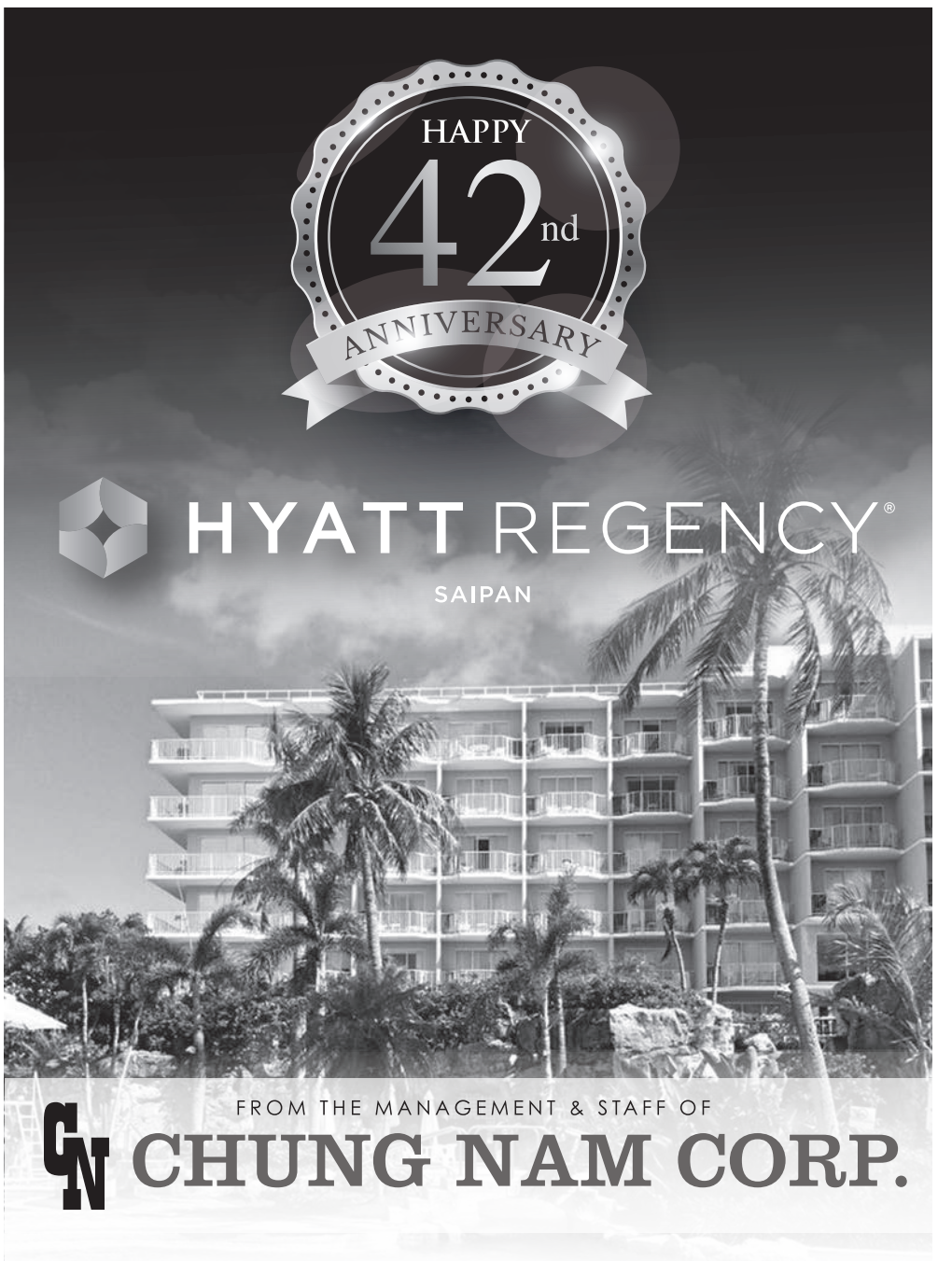
"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is actively involved in humanitarian relief and development activities in Micronesia and throughout the world. Programs such as this are funded from faithful members of the Church and others. These programs help children and families of all nationalities and religions by relieving suffering, helping people help themselves, and providing opportunities for service," said church elder William H.K. Davis.

PWWD president Monique Panaligan saw a need for the women in the organization to help them grow in their abilities and find more independence and self-esteem by learning to sew and make clothes. They can also sell these clothes to others. Panaligan sought assistance in acquiring sewing machines from the church's Guam Humanitarian Department.

PWWD is operating under the Pohnpei Consumer Organization. Its vision is to improve the situation and life of women and girls with disabilities in Pohnpei and all its outer islands with an aim to pass down vast and sacred traditional and cultural traits to the rising generation. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pohnpei Women with Disability organization president Monique Panaligan.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Congress needs some toddler-proofing before the GOP House majority takes power

Just as it's a good idea to child-proof a home before having toddlers over for a birthday party, congressional Democrats should be doing what they can during the current lame-duck session to prepare for the incoming Republican House majority—a crowd that has literally announced its intention to threaten America's fiscal stability, block election reforms and abandon Ukraine. The current Democratic majority, working with whatever responsible Republicans they can get on board, can extremist-proof Congress in some important ways between now and January.

Anyone who might be offended by the comparison between unruly toddlers and a GOP House majority should consider the words of Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo., who is in line for a major budget post under the incoming GOP House majority: "The American people expect Congress to use every tool at its disposal" to press the Biden administration on issues like taxes, energy policy and the border, Smith said recently, "and the debt ceiling absolutely is one of those tools."

Translation: Holding America's full faith and credit hostage to an array of partisan issues—as Republicans did a decade ago, kneecapping the government's credit rating for the first time ever—is something Smith and his cohorts are vowing to do again.

No insult intended to toddlers.

Refusing to raise the debt ceiling when necessary isn't akin to reining in spending. The spending has already happened; this is akin to refusing to pay the bills when they come due, jeopardizing economic stability domestically and globally. Congress should, right now, raise the debt ceiling enough to ensure it won't be an issue again for at least two years, depriving Smith and his colleagues of this particular mischief.

If this kind of recklessness from the fiscal responsibility party is weird, the once-security-minded GOP's soft spot for Russia these days is even weirder. Democrats should ensure, now, that Ukraine has all the aid it needs to resist Russia's aggression, since many Republicans are threatening that aid—apparently having forgotten that America is supposed to stand up against tyranny and for democracy.

Speaking of which: Finalizing reforms to the Electoral Count Act is crucial. That's the 19th-century law that was written vaguely enough that former President Donald Trump and his supporters (including Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley) were able to exploit it and spark the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. The reforms, which have bipartisan support, would specify that, no, the vice president can't choose the next president, while setting higher bars for objecting to state election slates.

Though Republicans will control the House in January, the Nov. 8 elections cannot by any stretch be read as a mandate. Democrats who still control Congress now have not just a right but a duty to ensure that the worst instincts of the incoming majority are reined in before they're seated. Let's cover those plug sockets.

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More guns lead to more shootings. Let's challenge what gun ownership means

By NED BARNETT
The News & Observer

Ned Barnett is associate opinion editor for The News & Observer.

The mass shootings in Virginia and Colorado again call attention to the nation's gun problem, but how deeply guns are embedded in everyday life can be seen from other random news reports:

■ When NBA player Taurean Prince of the Minnesota Timberwolves was pulled over in suburban Dallas for an expired registration, he informed the officer he had two handguns in the car.

■ Security guards at a bonfire party held at an Enfield, North Carolina, horse ranch confiscated 27 guns that people tried to smuggle in. "These weapons were found in the bottom of coolers, these weapons were found in boots, these weapons were even found in hats," the host said.

■ A report on the Transportation Security Administration noted that so far this year TSA has confiscated more than 4,600 guns, about 87 percent of them loaded. It's on pace to pass last year's record of 6,000 guns confiscated.

Second Amendment zealots say that people, not guns, kill people. But when a nation has more guns than people—393 million guns and 326 million people—the prevalence of guns is going to lead to the demise of people through intentional shootings, accidents or suicides. The toll is more than 110 people every day, including five deaths per day in North Carolina.

> So far this year TSA has confiscated more than 4,600 guns, about 87 percent of them loaded. It's on pace to pass last year's record of 6,000 guns confiscated.

How it got this way is a complicated story about muskets, militias, the National Rifle Association and members of Congress who value campaign contributions over their constituents' lives.

How to make it less this way is equally complicated. But as the U.S. endures another wave of mass shootings, there are signs that the majority of Americans who want stronger gun controls may yet be heard. A bipartisan group called the 97 Percent—an allusion to the 97 percent of Americans who favor universal background checks for gun purchases—wants to reduce the carnage by enlisting gun owners in the effort.

The group sponsored a recent conference focused on how gun control advocates might appeal to Republican lawmakers and gun owners who are willing to consider ways to reduce gun violence.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, who this month mourned a mass shooting that killed five in Raleigh, opened the conference with a speech about seeking consensus on reducing gun violence. He said that traffic fatalities have been reduced by sensible measures such as seat belts, air bags and better vehicle designs. The same could be done with guns.

"The government didn't take the cars away from responsible drivers to help that problem and we won't take away guns from responsible owners," Cooper said. "We just want to make it safer. And all of us want to feel safe in our houses, our schools, our churches and in our communities. That's common ground."

Participants in the conference said the progress against gun violence should start with steps that most gun owners would support:

■ Add convictions for violent misdemeanors such as assault, stalking and violent threats to convictions that bar gun ownership and possession.

■ Pass red flag laws that would allow courts to order the removal of guns from people considered a danger to themselves or others.

■ Require a permit to purchase a gun (only 11 states do) and make federal and state background checks part of the gun permitting process.

Keeping guns out of the hands of violent people is a start, but those laws won't prevent road rage shootings, domestic violence shootings, gun suicides, toddlers shooting themselves and the river of guns that careless gun owners lose to thieves.

To reduce gun violence, challenge the popular idea of gun ownership. It's not an expression of freedom. Nor is it in the overwhelming percentage of cases about self-defense.

An NBA player doesn't need two handguns at the ready. No one needs to hide a gun in a cooler on the way into a party or pack a loaded one in their carry-on luggage.

Those who have a real need for a gun should be trained in how to use it and penalized if they lose it. Those who pack guns just because they can aren't making anyone safer, including themselves.

Fight poverty, not income inequality

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. He is coauthor of* Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.

Wealth and income inequality have recently gone down in the U.S. and other parts of the West, and the decline has been going on for the better part of the last decade. Yet it is not clear, to me at least, whether this is something to celebrate.

The recent decrease should come as no surprise. Markets are well below their late 2021 levels, and the wealthy hold a disproportionate share of the stock market. Executive compensation also tends to move with the markets, which affect the wealth of founders such as Mark Zuckerberg, who according to one measure has lost about three-quarters of his net wealth at its peak. And then there are all those former crypto billionaires, and not just Sam Bankman-Fried.

At the lower end of the income scale, the picture is more complex. Nonetheless the labor market has yet to crash, the current unemployment rate is 3.7%, and there are signs of an inflationary soft landing. Over the third quarter of 2022, the bottom 50% saw their real incomes rise an average of 1.5%. None of those narratives are finished, but matters could be worse.

I am not here to shed tears for the very wealthy or to argue that the bottom half doesn't need more help. My question is this: Do we feel good about this state of affairs? I would merely observe that lesser wealth and income inequality have not brought new glories to the world.

Of course poorer people would be better off if they had more money, and we should enact policies to help bring that about. But critics of inequality make a different and much stronger set of claims, saying that inequality is responsible for health problems, despair, bad governance and social unrest. Those arguments—focusing on inequality rather than the absolute level of poverty—are an essential part of the current critique of capitalism.

Lower income inequality is not without downsides. Charitable giving is likely to fall. Fewer ambitious corporate projects will be undertaken. Major technology companies, which have seen some of the biggest declines in value, are laying off workers, most of whom will probably get lower-paying jobs and experience more anxiety.

To be clear, these are manageable problems. But they are problems nonetheless. Some number of Americans, above and beyond the wealthy, will be worse off because the riches of the very wealthy have declined.

And it's not as if people on the lower end of the income scale feel happier or more healthy because the wealthiest are now poorer. For most Americans, life goes on; their main economic concern is that high inflation will eat into potential wage gains.

Nor is it the case that the proletariat have taken hold of the reins of power and a new populist utopia is nigh. The very wealthy might make fewer political donations, but the influence of money on politics was overrated in the first place. It hardly seems like a new era of egalitarian redistribution. Instead, Western government budgets are fairly tight, and in the U.S. in particular the set of plausible policy alternatives is likely to get more narrow.

For at least two decades, the attention given to rising income and wealth inequality was huge, among both policymakers and academics. Over the last decade, the attention given to falling income and wealth inequality has been tiny. Our views of this issue, shaped by the media, may be seriously out of date.

I am by no means convinced that this reduction in inequality will continue. Forthcoming technological advances will have unpredictable effects. But if the last decade proves to be an interlude, there is still a lesson: Maybe inequality wasn't the problem in the first place. That's why I'm not cheering at its decline, and why I suspect not everyone else is, either. The real challenge isn't how to reduce the difference in wealth between the rich and the poor. It's how to reduce poverty.

A dismissal at Customs and Border Protection shows how hard law enforcement reform can be

By CHRISTY E. LOPEZ
Los Angeles Times

Christy E. Lopez is a professor from practice at Georgetown University Law Center and co-director of its Center for Innovations in Community Safety. At the Department of Justice, she led the Civil Rights Division investigations of police department misconduct.

The next time you see a video of a horrific violent act by a police officer, or read of a shocking scandal in law enforcement, you may find yourself asking how this keeps happening despite repeated cycles of protest and promises of change. When that moment comes, remember the forced resignation this month of U.S. Customs and Border Protection head Chris Magnus.

Magnus' dismissal is a glaring example of a long-standing pattern in this country, including in the Biden administration, of calling for broad changes to reduce law enforcement harm and ensure accountability but refusing to support those brought on to actually make that change.

That the CBP—particularly the Border Patrol—is in need of fundamental transformation is beyond doubt. CBP has been called the nation's "most out-of-control law enforcement agency," and a long list of racist, violent and generally felonious conduct amply supports that assessment.

The agency's own finding this year that Border Patrol agents on horseback used unjustified force against Haitian immigrants, while shouting insults about Haiti, was just the most recent abuse of power. Agents have been involved in both immigration- and drug-related corruption, violent attacks on immigrants, including rapes, and inhumane treatment of people caged in overcrowded agency facilities.

The Government Accountability Office found that between 2005 and 2012 there were more than 2,000 arrests for misconduct among CBP's ranks, and urged the agency to stem "corruption and misconduct."

In 2018, CBP found that approximately 9% of its workforce engaged in misconduct resulting in formal discipline and that hundreds had been arrested—an arrest rate about five times that of state and local police.

Last year, a congressional investigation found that CBP reduced discipline for agents who posted violent, misogynistic and racist posts to a 9,500-member Facebook page that, although secret to the public, was known to CBP officials for three years before reported publicly.

Given this long-standing climate of abuse and impunity, it was encouraging when the Biden administration selected Magnus a year ago to head CBP. Magnus is a former police chief with a history of turning around law enforcement agencies. When he was police chief in Richmond, California, he pushed for cutting-edge approaches to violence reduction that dramatically reduced homicides in the city, even as police shootings also were reduced to an average of less than one per year.

Further, contrary to the impression you might get from Magnus' initial refusal to resign from CBP, he is quick to take responsibility when he is in the wrong—and even when he isn't. When Carlos Ingram-Lopez was killed in police custody in Tucson, Arizona, where Magnus was chief, Magnus offered his resignation. The difference there was that political leadership in Tucson knew that the tragedy occurred despite, not because of, Magnus' leadership, and so refused to accept his resignation.

The Biden administration knew what they were getting when they hired Magnus. When he was chief in Tucson, his department stopped taking federal funds to militarize local police to act as border agents, and he put his opposition to Trump's immigration policies in writing.

Nonetheless, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas asked Magnus to resign or be fired. While DHS has declined to comment on Magnus' dismissal, in interviews, Magnus cited differences with the agency's leadership over Magnus' emphasis on reform. Last month, five anonymous administration sources complained to Politico that Magnus was "unengaged" on the "situation at the border" and focused instead on reforming agency culture. Early this month, 16 House Republicans wrote to Biden asking for Magnus' head to "ensure our national security."

It's instructive, however, to look at the response to Magnus' firing by the Border Patrol's union, the National Border Patrol Council, in order to fully grasp the pressures behind Magnus' firing, as well as its implications. The NBPC tweeted: "BP doesn't have a culture problem. It has a leadership problem, starting with Biden. Good riddance."

I have seen these dynamics play out in countless law enforcement agencies in my years of police reform efforts. Power structures, whether certain police unions or informal officer cliques and gangs, that become so used to operating above the law that they feel entitled to do so, don't relinquish that power without a fight. Political leaders then try to placate anti-reformers by removing the same change-makers they brought on to make change.

Further, as the NBPC tweet underscores, the administration's decision to side with CBP's retrograde elements will embolden, not appease. And, tragically, that means we can expect the Border Patrol to become more brutal and corrupt in the wake of Magnus' firing. Because when the administration abandoned Magnus, it also abandoned every border agent who dared to hope that Magnus' arrival might signal a chance for a more humane, accountable culture to take hold. Those agents will go further into hiding and the Border Patrol's worst elements will solidify their control of the culture.

Ending this nation's devastating cycle of police abuse requires fundamentally changing law enforcement culture, and that is extraordinarily hard work. It requires sustained pressure from both inside and outside an agency. Until political officials support those individuals, like Chris Magnus and so many others, willing and able to lead such change from the inside, history is indeed doomed to repeat itself.

Island Rocker

LITERARY NOOK

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bob Coldeen, a retired sportscaster who was elected to the NMI Sports Hall of Fame earlier this year, has won awards in fiction and non-fiction. He first came to Saipan in 1973 and has called Micronesia home since then.

Sail to Saipan if you can.
Drive thru dandy DanDan.
Dance in downtown Garapan.

Feel the beat.
Feel the heat.

Gotta party somehow.
How 'bout LaoLao?
Go shout "WOW, WOW"
From the top of Mt. Tapochau.

Dance high in the sky.
Dance at sunrise.

Sing a silly song
in the village of SongSong.
Do whatcha wanna
when you're on Mt. Sabana.

Dance in the rain.
We don't complain.

Sand on your feet.
Kelaguen to eat.
Rainbows in your eyes
are the best surprise.

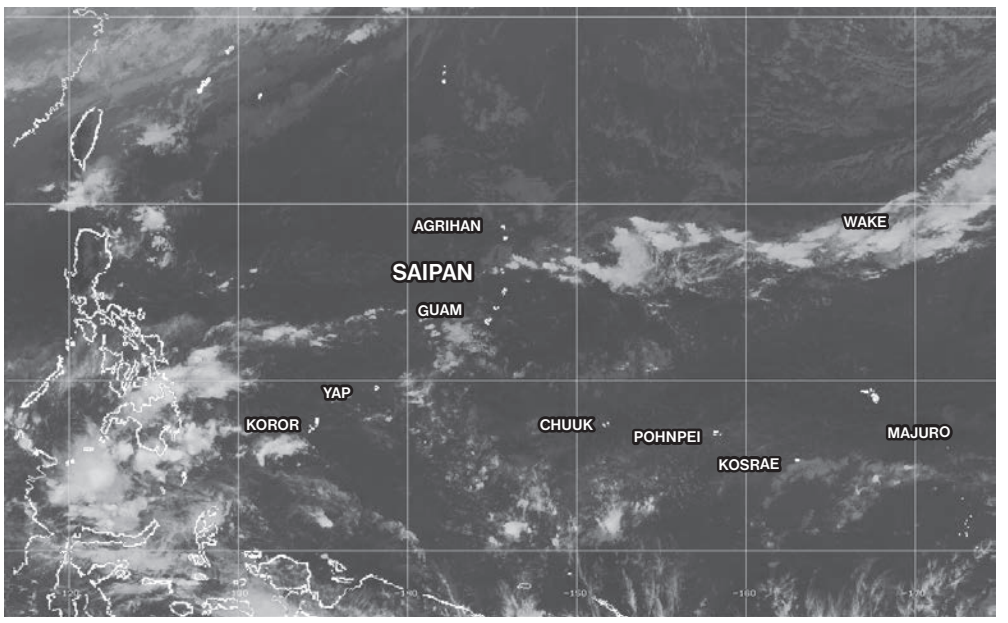
Island Rocker is free.
Island Rocker is the way to be.
Island Rocker gotta be free.
Island Rocker—it's the way to be.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:31 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly west of the islands and are moving west. As such it is primarily heading away from the islands. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet composed primarily of a large northeast swell with a smaller north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	64° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 12°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°
London	Sunny	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°
New York	Showers	53° / 36°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 32°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°
Washington, DC	Rain	60° / 32°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	12:44 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:17 AM	1:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:17 AM	2:20 PM
Sunday	-	2:14 AM	3:01 PM
Sunday	-	3:09 AM	3:40 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:17 AM	High Tide	1.35
7:40 AM	Low Tide	-0.09
3:05 PM	High Tide	1.78
9:30 PM	Low Tide	0.80

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

APAFS celebrates 20 years of fiduciary excellence in Manila

The Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference attended by over 250 passionate delegates

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines—From Nov. 14 to 18, the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies celebrated 22 years of bringing corporate governance and institutional investment education to the Asia Pacific region.

To celebrate this institutional milestone, APAFS hosted its first in person meeting at the New World Hotel, Makati City, Philippines by beginning the week with 3 full days of leadership and investment governance courses after a two-year pandemic forced hiatus. On Thursday, the highly anticipated Annual Investment Conference began.

"Twenty-two years ago, APAFS created an organization that would be a resource for trustees and other institutional investors throughout the region. Since then, our commitment has remained clear: we want to close the knowledge gap between regional trustees and global investment professionals. With this in mind, APAFS has also partnered with like-minded institutions such as the CFA Society, United Nations Principles of Investing (PRI), fi360 Pacific, 3ethos, and many others to fulfill our mission. To this day, we remain steadfast carrying the same passion to equip and educate others fiduciary at a time," said Gerry Cruz, AIFA chief operating officer of the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies.

Packed with over 250 fund managers, policymakers, portfolio specialists, and financial educators, the PRI Conference has been well-received by its attendees. Various field experts led a series of sessions that provided a greater knowledge on how investors can attain their financial goals while building a sustainable world. With topics about ESG Investing, global market reviews, alternative strategies and investment solutions, retirement plans, and navigating through the risks in a post-pandemic bond market, the event in itself has become a melting pot of knowledge and dialogues on current industry situations and challenges of the ones involved.

According to executivedirector Dan Roland, "our success and longevity is a reflection of our regional trustees' passion for their jurisdiction. From the early days of our association, trustees have come and gone, but the resolve to do the right thing has never wavered, and because of that, APAFS's commitment has never wavered."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ocean Foundation president Mark J. Spalding presents his "Keep the Future Ocean-Climate Nexus in Mind for Policymaking and Blue Economy Investing."

Congress prepares to take up bill preventing rail strike

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress is moving swiftly to prevent a looming U.S. rail workers strike, reluctantly intervening in a labor dispute to stop what would surely be a devastating blow to the nation's economy if the transportation of fuel, food and other critical goods were disrupted.

The House was expected to act first on Wednesday after President Joe Biden asked Congress to step in. The bill lawmakers are considering would impose a compromise labor agreement brokered by his administration that was ultimately voted down by four of the 12 unions representing more than 100,000 employees at large freight rail carriers. The unions have threatened to strike if an agreement can't be reached before a Dec. 9 deadline.

Lawmakers from both parties expressed reservations, but the intervention was particularly difficult for some Democratic lawmakers who have traditionally sought to align themselves with the politically powerful labor unions.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent who caucuses with Democrats, announced that he would object to fast-tracking the president's proposal until he can get a roll-call vote on an amendment that would guarantee seven paid sick days for rail workers. Some of the more liberal lawmakers in the House such as Reps. Jamaal Bowman of New York and Cori Bush of Missouri tweeted that they couldn't support the measure.

Still, the bill was expected to receive a significant bipartisan vote. That show of support began when the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate met with Biden on Tuesday at the White House.

"We all agreed that we should try to avoid this rail shutdown as soon as possible," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said as he returned to the Capitol.

A letter from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Democratic colleagues promised two votes, reflecting the consternation she was hearing from members. The first vote will be on adopting the tentative labor agreement. The second will be on a measure to add seven days of paid sick leave for railroaders to the agreement.

Virginia Walmart mass shooting survivor files $50M lawsuit

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A Walmart employee who survived last week's mass shooting at a store in Virginia has filed a $50 million lawsuit against the company for allegedly continuing to employ the shooter — a store supervisor — "who had known propensities for violence, threats and strange behavior."

The lawsuit, which appears to be the first to stem from the shooting, was filed Tuesday in Chesapeake Circuit Court by Donya Prioleau.

Walmart, which is headquartered in Bentonville, Arkansas, said in a statement that it was reviewing the complaint and will respond "as appropriate with the court."

"The entire Walmart family is heartbroken by the loss of the valued members of our team," the company said. "Our deepest sympathies go out to our associates and everyone impacted, including those who were injured. We are focused on supporting all our associates with significant resources, including counseling."

Prioleau's suit alleges that she has experienced post-traumatic stress disorder, including physical and emotional distress, from witnessing the rampage in the store's breakroom on Nov. 22. Her lawsuit offers fresh details of the terrifying attack and provides a long list of troubling signs displayed by the shooter that she claims managers failed to address.

"Bullets whizzed by Plaintiff Donya Prioleau's face and left side, barely missing her," the lawsuit states. "She witnessed several of her coworkers being brutally murdered on either side of her."

The lawsuit adds: "Ms. Prioleau looked at one of her coworkers in the eyes right after she had been shot in the neck. Ms. Prioleau saw the bullet wound in her coworker's neck, the blood rushing out of it, and the shocked look on her coworker's helpless face."

Store supervisor Andre Bing, 31, fatally shot six employees and wounded several others before he died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot, police said.

The lawsuit alleges that Bing "had a personal vendetta against several Walmart employees and kept a 'kill list' of potential targets prior to the shooting."

The list is in reference to a "death note" found on Bing's phone and released Friday by authorities. The note appeared to contain specific references to people he worked with, but authorities redacted their names.

Bing was a Walmart team leader who had worked for the company since 2010. He was responsible for managing the overnight stocking crew, including Prioleau, who started her job in May 2021, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit claims management knew or should have known about Bing's disturbing behavior and lists several instances of alarming conduct.

"Prior to the shooting, Mr. Bing repeatedly asked coworkers if they had received their active shooter training," the suit states. "When coworkers responded that they had, Mr. Bing just smiled and walked away without saying anything."

Bing "made comments to other Walmart employees and managers suggesting that he would be violent if fired or disciplined," according to the suit, which also says Bing "was disciplined leading up to the shooting, making his violent outburst predictable."

In another instance, Bing told co-workers "he ran over a turtle with a lawnmower just to see its (guts) spray out, which made him hungry and reminded him of ramen noodles," the lawsuit says.

Bing was previously disciplined for bad behavior and harassing employees, but Walmart "kept employing him anyway," the suit says.

In her court filing, Prioleau states that she and her mother attempted to take action against Bing.

Prioleau had submitted a formal complaint on a Walmart Global Ethics Statement Form indicating that Bing had "bizarrely and inappropriately commented on Ms. Prioleau's age," the lawsuit stated.

The lawsuit alleges that Bing told her: "Isn't your lady clock ticking? Shouldn't you be having kids?"

Prioleau also complained that Bing had harassed her for "being poor and being short," according to the lawsuit.

Nation

Oath Keepers' Rhodes guilty of Jan. 6 seditious conspiracy

WASHINGTON (AP)— Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes was convicted Tuesday of seditious conspiracy for a violent plot to overturn President Joe Biden's election, handing the Justice Department a major victory in its massive prosecution of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

A Washington, D.C., jury found Rhodes guilty of sedition after three days of deliberations in the nearly two-month-long trial that showcased the far-right extremist group's efforts to keep Republican Donald Trump in the White House at all costs.

Rhodes was acquitted of two other conspiracy charges. A co-defendant — Kelly Meggs, who led the antigovernment group's Florida chapter — was also convicted of seditious conspiracy, while three other associates were cleared of that charge. Jurors found all five defendants guilty of obstruction of an official proceeding: Congress' certification of Biden's electoral victory.

The verdict, while mixed, marks a significant milestone for the Justice Department and is likely to clear the path for prosecutors to move ahead at full steam in upcoming trials of other extremists accused of sedition.

Rhodes and Meggs are the first people in nearly three decades to be found guilty at trial of seditious conspiracy — a rarely used Civil War-era charge that can be difficult to prove. The offense calls for up to 20 years behind bars.

AP

Stewart Rhodes, founder of the citizen militia group known as the Oath Keepers, speaks during a rally outside the White House in Washington, on June 25, 2017.

It could embolden investigators, whose work has expanded beyond those who attacked the Capitol to focus on others linked to Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland recently named a veteran prosecutor, Jack Smith, to serve as special counsel to oversee key aspects of a probe into efforts to subvert the election as well as a separate investigation into the retention of classified documents at Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago.

Garland said after the verdict that the Justice Department "is committed to holding accountable those criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy on January 6, 2021."

"Democracy depends on the peaceful transfer of power. By attempting to block the certification of the 2020 presidential election results, the defendants flouted and trampled the rule of law," Steven M. D'Antuono, assistant director in charge of the FBI Washington Field Office, said in an emailed statement. "This case shows that force and violence are no match for our country's justice system."

Using dozens of encrypted messages, recordings and surveillance video, prosecutors made the case that Rhodes began shortly after the 2020 election to prepare an armed rebellion to stop the transfer of presidential power.

Over seven weeks of testimony, jurors heard how Rhodes rallied his followers to fight to defend Trump, discussed the prospect of a "bloody" civil war and warned the Oath Keepers may have to "rise up in insurrection" to defeat Biden if Trump didn't act.

Defense attorneys accused prosecutors of twisting their clients' words and insisted the Oath Keepers came to Washington only to provide security for figures such as Roger Stone, a longtime Trump ally. The defense focused heavily on seeking to show that Rhodes' rhetoric was just bluster and that the Oath Keepers had no plan before Jan. 6 to attack the Capitol.

Rhodes intends to appeal, defense attorney James Lee Bright told reporters. Another Rhodes lawyer, Ed Tarpley, described the verdict as a "mixed bag," adding, "This is not a total victory for the government in any way, shape or form."

"We feel like we presented a case that showed through evidence and testimony that Mr. Rhodes did not commit the crime of seditious conspiracy," Tarpley said.

On trial alongside Rhodes, of Granbury, Texas, and Meggs, were Kenneth Harrelson, another Florida Oath Keeper; Thomas Caldwell, a retired Navy intelligence officer from Virginia; and Jessica Watkins, who led an Ohio militia group.

Caldwell was convicted on two counts and acquitted on three others, including seditious conspiracy. His attorney, David Fischer, called the verdict "major victory" for his client and a "major defeat" for the Justice Department. He also said he would appeal the two convictions.

Jury selection for a second group of Oath Keepers facing seditious conspiracy charges is scheduled to begin next week. Several members of the Proud Boys, including the former national chairman Enrique Tarrio, are also scheduled to go to trial on the sedition charge in December.

Landmark same-sex marriage bill wins Senate passage

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate passed bipartisan legislation Tuesday to protect same-sex marriages, an extraordinary sign of shifting national politics on the issue and a measure of relief for the hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples who have married since the Supreme Court's 2015 decision that legalized gay marriage nationwide.

The bill, which would ensure that same-sex and interracial marriages are enshrined in federal law, was approved 61-36 on Tuesday, including support from 12 Republicans. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the legislation was "a long time coming" and part of America's "difficult but inexorable march towards greater equality."

Democrats are moving quickly, while the party still holds the majority in both chambers of Congress. The legislation now moves to the House for a final vote.

President Joe Biden praised the bipartisan vote and said he will sign the bill "promptly and proudly" if it is passed by the House. He said it will ensure that LGBTQ youth "will grow up knowing that they, too, can lead full, happy lives and build families of their own."

The bill has gained steady momentum since the Supreme Court's June decision that overturned the federal right to an abortion, a ruling that included a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas that suggested same-sex marriage could also come under threat. Bipartisan Senate negotiations got a kick-start this summer when 47 Republicans unexpectedly voted for a House bill and gave supporters new optimism.

The legislation would not force any state to allow same-sex couples to marry. But it would require states to recognize all marriages that were legal where they were performed, and protect current same-sex unions, if the court's 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision were to be overturned. It's a stunning bipartisan endorsement, and evidence of societal change, after years of bitter divisiveness on the issue.

A new law protecting same-sex marriages would also be a major victory for Democrats as they relinquish their two years of consolidated power in Washington, and a massive win for advocates who have been pushing for decades for federal legislation. It comes as the LGBTQ community has faced violent attacks, such as the shooting last weekend at a gay nightclub in Colorado that killed five people and injured at least 17.

"Our community really needs a win, we have been through a lot," said Kelley Robinson, the incoming president of Human Rights Campaign, which advocates on LGBTQ issues. "As a queer person who is married, I feel a sense of relief right now. I know my family is safe."

Robinson was in the Senate chamber for the vote with her wife, Becky, and toddler son. "It was more emotional than I expected," she said.

The vote was personal for many senators, too. Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat who is the first openly gay senator and was the lead sponsor of the bill, tearfully hugged Schumer and others as the final vote was called. Baldwin, who has been working on gay rights issues for almost four decades, tweeted thanks to the same-sex and interracial couples who she said made the moment possible.

"By living as your true selves, you changed the hearts and minds of people around you," she wrote.

Trump's dinner disaster sparks new rules for his campaign

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump is betting he can win his way back to the White House by reviving the outsider appeal that fueled his success in 2016.

Trump

But his dinner with a Holocaust-denying white nationalist and a rapper who has spewed antisemitic conspiracies is demonstrating the risks of that approach. It underscores the dangers of his limited campaign operation and leaves the former president subject to stinging criticism from fellow Republicans who increasingly see him as a liability for their party after a lackluster showing in this year's midterm elections.

In an acknowledgment of the severity of the backlash and an effort to prevent a repeat, Trump's campaign is putting new protocols in place to ensure that those who meet with him are approved and fully vetted, according to people familiar with the plans who requested anonymity to share internal strategy. The changes will include expediting a system, borrowed from Trump's White House, in which a senior campaign official will be present with him at all times, according to one of the people.

The decision follows the anger and handwringing from people close to Trump over how the former president became embroiled in scandal just two weeks after launching his third campaign for the White House under the cloud of numerous investigations. And it highlights their concerns about Trump's vulnerability as GOP strategists and officials increasingly conclude that new leadership is the party's best hope for winning in future elections.

"Republicans, we're looking to 2024 and we're looking for a winner," said New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, who blasted Trump's dinner as "absolutely reprehensible."

"I think it makes him even less electable in November of 2024," he said.

Trump has repeatedly said he did not know until after the fact that he had had dinner with Nick Fuentes, the far-right activist who has used his online platform to spew antisemitic and white nationalist rhetoric. Fuentes arrived by car with Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, and was waved into the club by security, even though only Ye had been on the security list, according to one of the people present and others briefed on the events. (Fuentes apparently did not show his ID and the car's driver, a frequent guest at the club, got in using a credit card after misplacing her license.)

Some aides had advised Trump against meeting with Ye, who has made his own antisemitic comments. But the two have a longstanding relationship and Trump rebuffed the advice. They were supposed to meet one-on-one in the club's library, but Trump, eager to show off his celebrity guest to his paying club members, decided to divert the group to the club's main patio dining area. Fuentes joined the dinner at Ye's invitation.

Trump is no stranger to controversies of his own creation. His 2016 campaign was fueled by an endless cycle of outrage. Trump would make an inflammatory statement, calling for Muslims to be banned from entering the country, saying John McCain was " not a war hero " because he was captured in Vietnam, or asserting an Indiana-born federal judge had " an absolute conflict " on a case because of his "Mexican heritage." Those comments would spur days of media coverage as critics responded with outrage, keeping Trump in the news.

Asia

China vows crackdown on activities by 'hostile forces'

BEIJING (AP)—China's ruling Communist Party has vowed to "resolutely crack down on infiltration and sabotage activities by hostile forces," following the largest street demonstrations in decades staged by citizens fed up with strict anti-virus restrictions.

The statement from the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission released late Tuesday comes amid a massive show of force by security services to deter a recurrence of the protests that broke out over the weekend in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and several other cities.

While it did not directly address the protests, the statement serves as a reminder of the party's determination to enforce its rule.

Hundreds of SUVs, vans and armored vehicles with flashing lights were parked along city streets Wednesday while police and paramilitary forces conducted random ID checks and searched people's mobile phones for photos, banned apps or other potential evidence that they had taken part in the demonstrations.

The number of people who have been detained at the demonstrations and in follow-up police actions is not known.

The commission's statement, issued after an expanded session Monday presided over by its head Chen Wenqing, a member of the party's 24-member Politburo, said the meeting aimed to review the outcomes of October's 20th party congress.

At that event, Xi granted himself a third five-year term as secretary general, potentially making him China's leader for life, while stacking key bodies with loyalists and eliminating opposing voices.

"The meeting emphasized that political and legal organs must take effective measures to … resolutely safeguard national security and social stability," the statement said.

"We must resolutely crack down on infiltration and sabotage activities by hostile forces in accordance with the law, resolutely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that disrupt social order and effectively maintain overall social stability," it said.

Yet, less than a month after seemingly ensuring his political future and unrivaled dominance, Xi, who has signaled he favors regime stability above all, is facing his biggest public challenge yet.

He and the party have yet to directly address the unrest, which spread to college campuses and the semi-autonomous southern city of Hong Kong, as well as sparking sympathy protests abroad.

Most protesters focused their ire on the "zero-COVID" policy that has placed millions under lockdown and quarantine, limiting their access to food and medicine while ravaging the economy and severely restricting travel. Many mocked the government's ever-changing line of reasoning, as well as claims that "hostile outside foreign forces" were stirring the wave of anger.

Yet bolder voices called for greater freedom and democracy and for Xi, China's most powerful leader in decades, as well as the party he leads, to step down — speech considered subversive and punishable with lengthy prison terms. Some held up blank pieces of white paper to demonstrate their lack of free speech rights.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China to increase nuclear warheads to 1,500, Pentagon warns

WASHINGTON (AP)—China is expanding its nuclear force and is on pace to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has by 2035, rapidly closing its gap with the United States, the Pentagon said in a report released Tuesday.

The report builds on the military's warning last year that China is expanding its nuclear force much faster than U.S. officials had predicted, highlighting a broad and accelerating build-up of military muscle designed to enable Beijing to match or surpass U.S. global power by mid-century.

Last year, the Pentagon said the number of Chinese nuclear warheads could increase to 700 within six years and may top 1,000 by 2030. The new report says China currently has about 400 nuclear warheads, and that number could grow to 1,500 by 2035.

The United States, by comparison, has 3,750 active nuclear warheads.

US dismisses Chinese objections to South China Sea mission

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. Navy on Tuesday dismissed Beijing's protests over a "freedom of navigation operation" conducted near a Chinese-held island in the South China Sea, in the latest incident drawing new attention to one of the world's potential military flashpoints.

The Navy said its guided missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville on Tuesday "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law."

China called the action illegal and said it mobilized naval and air assets to issue warnings and drive off the ship, a characterization the Navy and Pentagon disputed.

"I know that there has been some reporting that China essentially ejected our ship from the area, that is not true," said Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder.

Japan births at new low as population shrinks and ages

TOKYO (AP)—The number of babies born in Japan this year is below last year's record low in what the the top government spokesman described as a "critical situation."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno promised comprehensive measures to encourage more marriages and births.

The total of 599,636 Japanese born in January-September was 4.9% below last year's figure, suggesting the number of births in all of 2022 might fall below last year's record low of 811,000 babies, he said.

Japan is the world's third biggest economy but living costs are high and wage increases have been slow. The conservative government has lagged on making society more inclusive for children, women and minorities.

So far, the government's efforts to encourage people to have more babies have had limited impact despite payments of subsidies for pregnancy, childbirth and child care.

"The pace is even slower than last year ... I understand that it is a critical situation," Matsuno said.

Many younger Japanese have balked at marrying or having families, discouraged by bleak job prospects, onerous commutes and corporate cultures incompatible with having both parents work.

World

AS WEST PREPARES WINTER AID

Uneasy calm grips Ukraine

AP

The Ukrainian flag flatters at half mast near the Ukrainian Motherland monument in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—An uneasy calm hung over Kyiv on Tuesday as residents of the Ukrainian capital prepared for Russian missile attacks aiming to take out more energy infrastructure as winter approaches.

To ease the hardships and ensure Ukraine's 43 million people can maintain their resolve in the 10th month of fighting against Russia's invasion, NATO allies are considering sending Patriot missiles and are boosting provisions of blankets, generators and other basic necessities.

Ukraine's first lady implored the West to retain the steadfastness that Ukrainians have shown against Russian President Vladimir Putin's military campaign.

"Ukrainians are very tired of this war, but we have no choice in the matter," Olena Zelenska, the wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said in a BBC interview during a visit to Britain.

"We do hope that the approaching season of Christmas doesn't make you forget about our tragedy and get used to our suffering," she said.

A two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania, was likely to see the 30-nation alliance make fresh pledges of nonlethal support to Ukraine: fuel, generators, medical supplies and winter equipment, on top of new military support.

The U.S. announced $53 million to buy electrical parts for Ukraine's electricity grid, which along with water and heating infrastructure has sustained heavy damage from targeted Russian strikes that began Oct. 10 in what Western officials have described as a Russian attempt to weaponize the coming winter cold.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed in Bucharest that deliveries of sophisticated missile systems such as Patriots are under consideration. A senior U.S. defense official who briefed Pentagon reporters Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. is open to providing them.

About a third of Ukraine's residents faced power supply disruptions, Ukraine's state grid operator said, both because of increased demand due to colder temperatures and the emergency shutdown of power units.

"The overall deficit in the energy system is a consequence of seven waves of Russian missile attacks on the country's energy infrastructure," electricity system operator Ukrenergo said.

Iranian general acknowledges over 300 dead in unrest

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An Iranian general on Monday acknowledged that more than 300 people have been killed in the unrest surrounding nationwide protests, giving the first official word on casualties in two months.

That estimate is considerably lower than the toll reported by Human Rights Activists in Iran, a U.S.-based group that has been closely tracking the protests since they erupted after the Sept. 16 death of a young woman being held by the country's morality police.

The activist group says 451 protesters and 60 security forces have been killed since the start of the unrest and that more than 18,000 people have been detained.

The protests were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was detained for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. They quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy and pose one of the most serious challenges to the ruling clerics since the 1979 revolution that brought them to power.

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the aerospace division of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, was quoted by a website close to the Guard as saying that more than 300 people have been killed, including "martyrs," an apparent reference to security forces. He also suggested that many of those killed were ordinary Iranians not involved in the protests.

He did not provide an exact figure or say where his estimate came from.

Authorities have heavily restricted media coverage of the protests. State-linked media have not reported an overall toll and have largely focused on attacks on security forces, which officials blame on shadowy militant and separatist groups.

Hajizadeh reiterated the official claim that the protests have been fomented by Iran's enemies, including Western countries and Saudi Arabia, without providing evidence. The protesters say they are fed up after decades of social and political repression, and deny having any foreign agenda.

Environment

UN: Great Barrier Reef should be on heritage 'danger' list

AP
In this undated photo provided by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Great Barrier Reef near the Whitsunday, Australia, region is viewed from the air.

PARIS (AP)—A United Nations-backed mission is recommending that the Great Barrier Reef be added to the list of endangered World Heritage sites, warning that without "ambitious, rapid and sustained" climate action the world's largest coral reef is in peril.

The warning came in a report published Monday following a 10-day mission to the reef last March by officials from UNESCO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The reef, a living place of immense variety and beauty on the north-east coast of Australia, has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1981.

Australia's federal government and Queensland's state authorities should adopt more ambitious emission reduction targets, in line with international efforts to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, according to the report.

Feedback from Australian officials, both at the federal and state level, will also be reviewed before UNESCO, the U.N.'s Paris-based cultural agency, makes any official proposal to the World Heritage committee.

Panama confronts illegal trafficking of animals

ANCON, Panama (AP)—In a tropical forest beside the Panama Canal, two black-handed spider monkeys swing about their wire enclosure, balanced by their long tails. They arrived at this government rehabilitation center after environmental authorities seized them from people who had been keeping them as pets.

In the coming months, biologists and veterinarians will shift them to a diet mirroring what they would eat in the wild, help them re-learn skills to survive in the jungle and wean them from human contact.

Panamanian authorities are trying to raise awareness about the dangers—to humans and wildlife—of keeping wild animals in their homes. This month, Panama hosted the World Wildlife Conference, where participants voted to tighten restrictions on the international trade in animals and plants.

Black-handed spider monkeys are listed in the most endangered category of international species, and Panama's Ministry of Environment say they are in "critical danger." Trade in the monkeys is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

"People don't understand they can't buy a wild animal from someone who doesn't have authorization to sell it," said Felipe Cruz, the Environment Ministry's adviser on environmental crimes. "The environment can't take any more. We're at a critical point."

From January through September, Panama's Attorney General's Office had recorded 19 cases of wild species trafficking and 14 cases of extraction of species that were protected or in danger of extinction. Shirley Binder, an adviser to the Environment Ministry, said the real extent of the problem could be greater.

"The country is big, there could be cases that we don't have," Binder said. "We have formed strategic alliances with security sectors that now are conscious of the environmental issue, ... but we also need the support of citizens generally so that when they see these cases they report them."

Earlier this year, the government introduced a catalog with photographs and technical details to assist in the identification of the most commonly trafficked species. The plan was to distribute it to security, border and customs authorities nationwide.

Panamanian law strictly limits the possession of wildlife. The Environment Ministry issues permits to zoos, breeding centers or for the raising and consumption of some sources of protein such as deer and iguana, but not for endangered species.

Biologist Samuel Sucre operates one of those businesses, Natural Tanks, which has government permits allowing him to collect amphibians and reptiles from the wild and breed them for sale.

Sucre said the government closed down some "ghost farming" operations.

"These farms were claiming they were breeding the frogs, but in reality they were just field collecting them and then claiming that these were bred (on) their farm," Sucre said.

"The problem with the illegal trade in countries like mine, developing countries, people don't understand the value of that resource," Sucre said. The people who want to sell animals go to residents of rural areas who have very little income and offer payment per frog.

He advocates instead for finding sustainable ways to commercialize some species so people can learn the value of the natural resources and make a living.

Spider monkeys are among the most popular wild pets, said Erick Núñez, the Environment Ministry's chief of national biodiversity. "They're usually friendly with people ... however, when they reach the age of sexual maturity, when they become jealous, they can become aggressive and attack people," he said. "That is the natural behavior of the species when it is stressed."

Primates can adapt relatively well to living in with humans, making their rehabilitation especially challenging, he said.

The new government rehabilitation center, which was built on land adjacent to former U.S. military facilities, began receiving animals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Animals cycle in and out, but it holds up to 50 animals and there are plans to expand.

Primates like the spider monkeys are among the most frequent arrivals, but the center also receives cat species such as ocelots and jaguarundi, and birds including toucans and owls.

The two spider monkeys that arrived separately this year have long rehabilitations ahead. "They are animals that are very used to human presence," said Núñez. "Here we only come once a day to bring food. The contact with us is very scarce."

For now, they feed them fruit such as papaya and mango, but biologists also collect fruit from the jungle. As they get closer to being released, their diet will shift away from fruits they would not find in the wild, where they would also eat some leaves and even eggs from birds' nests. Biologists will hide their food in the enclosure "to awaken that wild, natural instinct," Núñez said.

They will only be reintroduced to the wild after thorough evaluation by the center's biologists and specialists from non-governmental organizations. The monkeys will need to show that they can find their food and recognize other members of their species.

Núñez said people still see monkeys as making good pets, an attitude he said is "unjust and inappropriate."

Greta Thunberg sues her country for failing to take action on climate

By NICLAS ROLANDER
BLOOMBERG NEWS

A group of children and young adults including Greta Thunberg have filed a class-action lawsuit against the Swedish state for failing to take adequate measures to stop climate change.

The lawsuit is part of an international wave of climate-related legal action, some of it targeting national governments.

It follows a high-profile case in the Netherlands, where the country's highest court ruled in 2019 that the government had a legal obligation to take action to mitigate global warming.

The Swedish suit involves Thunberg, possibly the world's best known climate activist, and more than 600 others who claim that Sweden's climate policies violate its constitution as well as the European Convention on Human Rights.

"The Swedish state fails to meet the constitutional requirement to promote sustainable development leading to a good environment for present and future generations," the group said in a statement.

In 2017, Sweden adopted a climate law that requires the government to work to reduce emissions of planet-warming gases toward a net-zero target set for 2045.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions is key to meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement target of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February triggered a scramble for energy that's set back efforts and this year's U.N.-sponsored climate talks in Egypt failed to step up ambitions.

In an interview with Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter, Thunberg said she believes climate laws should be tightened.

"We don't have laws that provide long-term protection from the consequences of climate and environmental crises, but we need to use the methods at our disposal and do everything we can," she said.

Life & Style

Kim Kardashian and Ye settle divorce, averting custody trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian and Ye have reached a settlement in their divorce, averting a trial that had been set for next month, court documents filed Tuesday showed.

The former couple and their attorneys filed documents asking for a judge's approval of terms they have agreed on, including $200,000 per month child support payments rom Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, to Kardashian.

The two will have joint custody, and neither will pay the other spousal support, according to the documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The judge declared the two legally single at Kardashian's request in March, ending their eight-year marriage, but issues of property and custody remained that were to be worked out in a trial starting Dec. 14.

AP

Kanye West, left, and Kim Kardashian attend the WSJ. Magazine Innovator Awards on Nov. 6, 2019, in New York.

The two have four children whose ages range from 3 to 9 years old.

Kardashian and Ye will equally split the expenses for the kids' private security and private school, including college, according to the settlement proposal.

They will also each pay their own debts the settlement said. The two had a pre-nuptial agreement and kept their property largely separate.

The couple began dating in 2012 and had their first child in 2013. West proposed later that year using the giant screen at the empty waterfront ballpark of the San Francisco Giants, and the two married May 24, 2014, in a ceremony at a Renaissance fortress in Florence, Italy.

'The Phantom of the Opera' extends its long Broadway goodbye

NEW YORK (AP)—The masked man of Broadway is going out strong.

"The Phantom of the Opera"—Broadway's longest-running show—has postponed its final performance by eight weeks, pushing its final curtain from February to April after ticket demand spiked. Last week, the show raked in an eye-popping $2,2 million with a full house.

The musical—a fixture on Broadway since 1988, weathering recessions, war and cultural shifts—will now play its final Broadway performance on April 16. When it closes, it will have played 13,981 performances.

"We are all thrilled that not only the show's wonderful fans have been snapping up the remaining tickets, but also that a new, younger audience is equally eager to see this legendary production before it disappears," lead producer Cameron Mackintosh said in a statement.

Producers said there would be no more postponements. "This is the only possible extension for the Broadway champion, as the theater will then be closed for major renovations after the show's incredible 35-year run."

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, "Phantom" tells the story of a deformed composer who haunts the Paris Opera House and falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano, Christine. Andrew Lloyd Webber's lavish songs include "Masquerade," "Angel of Music," "All I Ask of You" and "The Music of the Night."

The closing of "Phantom" would mean the longest-running show crown would go to "Chicago," which started in 1996. "The Lion King" is next, having begun performances in 1997.

Broadway took a pounding during the pandemic, with all theaters closed for more than 18 months. Some of the most popular shows—"Hamilton," "The Lion King" and "Wicked"—have rebounded well, but other shows have struggled. Breaking even usually requires a steady stream of tourists, especially for the costly "Phantom," and visitors to the city haven't returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Vatican Swiss Guard slayings back in spotlight with new book

ROME (AP)—The mother of a Swiss Guard member accused of committing one of the most sensational crimes in recent Vatican history – fatally shooting his commander and the senior officer's wife before killing himself -- is turning to the United Nations and Pope Francis in hopes of getting some closure nearly a quarter-century after the slayings.

Muguette Baudat was on hand Tuesday as her lawyer, Laura Sgro, a veteran defense attorney in Vatican criminal trials, detailed her efforts to pry information out of the Vatican and access the court file into the May 4, 1998 slayings that are recounted in Sgro's new book, "Blood in the Vatican."

"I've been waiting for more than 24 years, so I don't expect anything," Baudat said at a book launch event. But she added: "The book is very important."

Within hours of the slayings, the Vatican spokesman announced that Baudat's 23-year-old son, Cedric Tornay, a noncommissioned Swiss Guard officer, had killed Col. Alois Estermann and Estermann's Venezuelan-born wife, Gladys Meza Romero, with his service revolver and then turned the gun on himself. The spokesman said a buildup of resentment over a reprimand by Estermann and the denial of a decoration, combined with a "peculiar" psychology, led to Tornay's violent acts.

Nine months later, in February 1999, the Vatican released a 10-page summary of its internal investigation that confirmed its initial assessment. It concluded that Tornay was solely responsible for the murder-suicide but added that his marijuana use and a brain cyst the size of a pigeon's egg could have impaired his reasoning.

Baudat spent two decades campaigning for more information and hired Sgro in 2019, asking for the Vatican investigation to be reopened. She said her request was not spurred by a belief that the Vatican was responsible, but rather to end the secrecy with which it has always handled the case.

Last year, the Vatican secretary of state intervened personally in the case and asked the Vatican tribunal to pay "particular attention" to Baudat's request. Sgro was granted access to the court file.

In the book, Sgro details what she found in the file, as well as the conditions imposed on her by the Vatican prosecutor for viewing it: She wasn't allowed to make copies but could only view the documentation in the tribunal, with two gendarmes standing behind her back monitoring her at all times. She was allowed to take some notes but not too many since she was explicitly barred from copying the text. She had to submit her notes to the prosecutors' office after each viewing session, which took place over the course of a year.

Cross-Atlantic romance hits snag over driving

DEAR ABBY: I met my boyfriend online last year. He lives in the U.K.; I'm in the U.S. I love him dearly and we talk about moving in together within the next year. The original plan was for him to emigrate, since I am closer to my family and have an established job. However, I'm a bit worried because he doesn't drive. It's not just because of the learning curve it will take to switch sides of the road, but he doesn't drive in the U.K. either.

I recently asked him why he doesn't, and he said he's worried he will relapse. He was addicted to drugs when he was young but has been clean for years. I don't judge him for his past; I'm proud of who he is now. But I'm worried about having to drive both of us when we live together because my city doesn't have the best public transportation. Is there a way to bring up trying to drive in the U.S. without putting him in a bad spot? Or is there no way around this?

ONLY DRIVER IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR ONLY DRIVER: Has this person been to the U.S. to visit you before? If he hasn't, and doesn't have a job that would prevent it, why not invite him to stay for three or four weeks? That way you could decide if providing all of his transportation would be workable and not too stressful in the long term for you.

Frankly, I don't see the connection between his former drug habit and his concern about driving an automobile. The two of you need to get to know each other a lot better before either of you decides to uproot your lives and relocate. If your relationship continues to grow, it might make more sense for you to move to the U.K.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Where do I begin? I've been a loyal reader of your column for years. I have been married to my current husband for 14 not-good years. He was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiomyopathy seven years ago and hasn't had a job since then. We have a daughter who will be 7 soon. I feel he could solve these problems by taking his medication and dieting. However, he insists his medical conditions keep him from working.

He doesn't take care of our daughter and doesn't do anything around the house. I take out the trash, wash the dishes, give the little one a bath, brush her teeth and hair and take care of ALL the bills. He makes excuse after excuse. I've been the provider for too damn long. Please help.

TIRED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TIRED: You stated that you have been married to this man for 14 "not-good" years. Nowhere in your letter did you mention whether there is any love left between you. Does your husband's DOCTOR agree that his medical conditions prevent him from working? Ask the question! If the answer is yes, you will then have to decide whether you can live up to your vow regarding "in sickness and in health." If the answer is no, make an appointment with a family law attorney and inquire about your options and what your responsibilities to him may be should you decide to separate or divorce.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

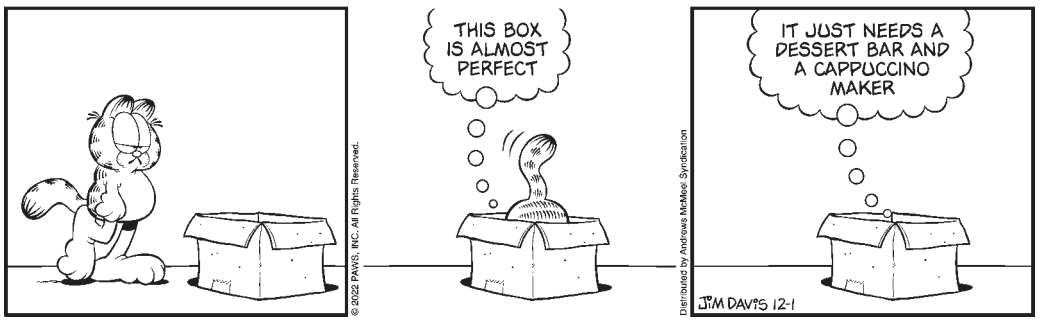
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

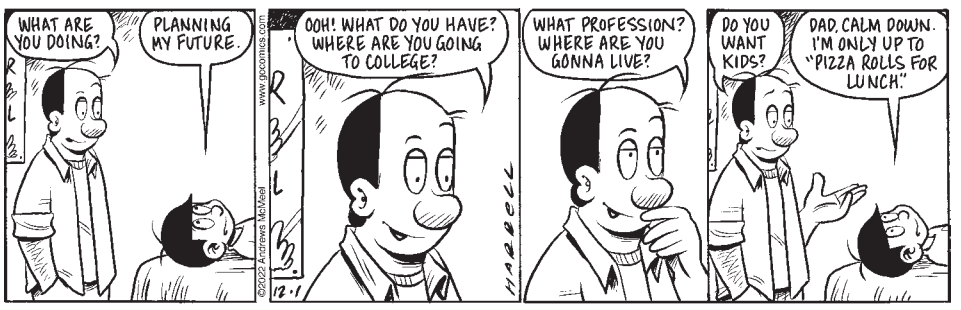
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PLANNING MY FUTURE.
OOH! WHAT DO YOU HAVE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO COLLEGE?
WHAT PROFESSION? WHERE ARE YOU GONNA LIVE?
DO YOU WANT KIDS?
DAD. CALM DOWN. I'M ONLY UP TO "PIZZA ROLLS FOR LUNCH."
12-1

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Float gently
5 Hindu honorific
8 School support orgs.
12 Rights gp.
13 Director Burton
14 QB Tony
15 Thing
16 Music booster
17 Apple tablet
18 Mens-wear access-sory
20 Japanese noodle
22 Arkansas capital
26 Hinder
29 Sugar suffix
30 Your
31 Messes up
32 Farm female
33 Bar fight souvenir
34 Turkish title
35 "How — you?"
36 Maestro Zubin —
37 Zen temple refuge
40 Makes lace
41 Word with job or circle
45 Equitable
47 Boom times
49 Thor's father
50 Bas-soon's kin
51 Sinbad's bird
52 Marsh plant
53 "Break-ing Bad" actress Anna
54 Mag. staff
55 Candied veggies

DOWN

1 "Hold on ..."
2 Play opener
3 Run off
4 Falls
5 Kick off
6 Edge
7 Sudden urge
8 Pre-ceding
9 First-rate
10 Docs' org.
11 Lay down the lawn
19 Balloon filler
21 Ruby or Sandra
23 Pisa sight
24 Converse
25 Actress Sedgwick
26 Beloved
27 Thus
28 Grip of a tire
32 Pencil user's correction
33 The "S" of ESP
35 Sales rep.
36 Gents
38 Singer Carpenter
39 Platters
42 Concept
43 "Carpe —!"
44 Termini
45 London mist
46 — Dhabi
48 Group of whales

Solution time: 24 mins.

		G	P	A			W	A	G			
	S	O	U	L		L	E	N	I	N		
R	E	O	R	G		E	A	G	L	E	S	
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W	T	S		B	I	T	E	S		D	Y	E
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A	G	E		L	A	U	R	A		P	O	I
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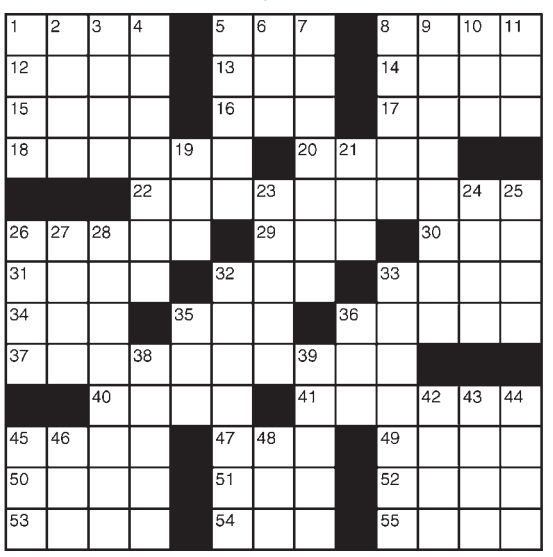
Yesterday's answer 12-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vance Joy, 35; Sarah Silverman, 52; Nestor Carbonell, 55; Bette Midler, 77.

Happy Birthday: Verification will be necessary this year if you want to keep everything in order. Don't rely on secondhand information or anyone who shows signs of inconsistency. Keep your eye on your target and your mind on your next move. Use the element of surprise; don't share your plan until you are in the process of launching it into the universe. Pay attention. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 28, 35, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Visit someone who feeds your mind with possibilities and prepares you to strive to achieve your drems, hopes and wishes. Changing your surroundings will spark your imagination and connect you with like-minded people. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of financial, medical or contractual matters yourself. Don't share sensitive information or secrets. Finish what you start, and move on to something that can add to your qualifications or help you head in a lucrative direction. Avoid a risky situation. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what most appeals to you. Put your energy into personal gain, not something that will benefit someone else. Use intelligence and facts to keep others from taking over or making you look incompetent. Don't trust others' alleged truthfulness. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your intuition, skills and talents to get ahead. Don't expect everyone to be on your side. Prepare to teach anyone who steps out of line a lesson. Stay in the forefront and command attention. A financial opportunity looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You can take part, but don't say yes to something you cannot afford. Make your position clear, what you are willing to do known and how you intend to deal with opposition obvious. Set standards, live by them and make an impression. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll have to be on guard if you want to outmaneuver the competition. Problems will surface at home if you make changes without getting approval first. Don't leave anything to chance or up to someone else. A change of scenery will be enlightening. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your time and energy into something exciting and challenging. You will rise to the occasion and surpass your expectations. Let your mind and body take over, and you'll discover you have the right of way. Benefits will follow. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take the path most inviting. Explore new ways to use your skills and knowledge to keep up with the times and stay on top of your game. Embrace change, but don't disrupt meaningful relationships in the process. Patience will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* "Hurry up and wait" will be how your day unfolds. Too many variables and people are interfering to give you a clear vision of what's coming. Use your intelligence and discipline to ensure you finish what you start. Make health a priority. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Leave nothing to chance. If you aren't specific about your needs or desires, you aren't likely to have them fulfilled. Don't be coy; share your thoughts, determine who agrees with you and proceed to make a transformation that improves your life. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A change that causes uncertainty is best dealt with quickly before situations run amok. Use your charm and innovative mind to win favors and ensure that no one takes advantage of you or your generosity. If you love someone, share your feelings. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Back down and rethink your strategy, and you'll find a way to remain on everyone's good side. How you handle matters at home and work will determine your popularity. Don't fuss when understanding, patience and change are required. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are generous, ambitious and enthusiastic. You are unique and influential.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		1		9		
			7		9			
		8				1		
	4		2		3		7	
6								1
	2		8		1		5	
		7				8		
			4		5			
		1		3		2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	2	1	9	8	6	3	4	7
3	4	9	1	7	2	8	6	5
6	7	8	3	5	4	2	1	9
7	1	3	6	9	5	4	8	2
8	6	5	2	4	3	7	9	1
2	9	4	7	1	8	5	3	6
9	3	7	8	2	1	6	5	4
1	5	6	4	3	7	9	2	8
4	8	2	5	6	9	1	7	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WINNER-TAKE-ALL **Solution: 11 letters**

T	N	E	M	A	N	R	U	O	T	O	T	A	L	M
T	G	Y	T	I	R	O	J	A	M	D	P	E	A	E
N	N	M	U	S	I	C	C	Y	S	R	R	S	M	V
A	I	O	E	C	E	T	T	N	P	T	T	A	O	I
R	N	N	T	D	I	R	S	H	O	E	E	T	W	T
G	R	E	I	C	A	U	T	A	R	T	E	C	E	A
C	A	Y	S	P	C	L	O	O	T	D	L	O	G	T
O	E	M	B	C	A	A	T	R	S	A	S	N	A	N
N	Ⓑ	A	E	E	U	I	T	P	E	B	D	Q	T	E
T	Ⓔ	S	W	C	T	S	O	Z	O	W	G	U	N	S
E	Ⓢ	E	T	E	E	K	I	J	S	P	A	E	A	E
S	Ⓣ	I	P	H	E	R	O	N	O	H	U	R	V	R
T	O	M	G	R	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L	D	P
N	O	I	T	C	E	L	E	T	N	U	O	M	A	E
C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	U	N	E	V	E	R

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Advantage, Amount, Auction, Award, Best, Challenge, Competitor, Conquer, Contest, Data, Earning, Election, Game, Gold, Grant, Highest, Honor, Jobs, Loot, Majority, Master, Medal, Money, Music, Party, Poker, Popular, Powerful, Prize, Representative, Revenue, Reward, Sports, Success, Tactic, Team, Total, Tournament, Vote, Wealth, Website

Yesterday's Answer: Bridge

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Pulisic goal advances US with 1-0 win over Iran

DOHA, Qatar (AP)— Christian Pulisic kicked the ball, scored the goal and crashed into the goalkeeper, a collision that sent the American star to a hospital and the United States into the second round of the World Cup.

More than an hour later, he contacted his teammates by FaceTime to join the celebration.

Pulisic's 38th-minute goal had held up, and the United States had beaten Iran 1-0 on Tuesday night in their politically charged rematch to advance to the World Cup's knockout stage.

"Every single player is ready to lay their body on the line to make sure this team is successful," midfielder Weston McKennie said.

After finishing second in Group B with five points, two behind England, the U.S. plays the Netherlands on Saturday with the chance to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2002.

"I always say it's us against the world," winger Tim Weah said, "'cause no one believed that the U.S. could play good football."

Back in the World Cup after missing the 2018 tournament, the U.S. needed a victory to reach the round of 16. Iran finished third in the group with three points and has failed to advance in six World Cup appearances.

"The dream is over," Iran coach Carlos Queiroz said.

McKennie started the play for the goal when he lofted the ball from just past the center circle to Sergiño Dest at the edge of the 6-yard box. Dest headed the ball in front of the net on a bounce as Pulisic charged up the center of the field past Ramin Rezaeian and Majid Hosseini.

Twisting his body, Pulisic redirected the ball with his right foot for his 22nd international goal and first in World Cup play. His momentum carried him into goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

"Christian makes those runs. That's what he does. That's the special quality he has," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "As soon as the ball is wide, he goes in with intensity to the penalty box and good things happen."

Pulisic was sprawled on the field and for about three minutes as he received treatment. He tried to continue playing but was substituted at the start of the second half and taken by athletic trainer Harris Patel for abdominal scans at Hamad General Hospital, where Pulisic followed the game on phone apps. The U.S. Soccer Federation said Pulisic was diagnosed with a pelvic contusion, returned to the team hotel and is day to day.

AP

Christian Pulisic of the United States lies on the pitch after scoring as teammates Sergino Dest, left, and Josh Sargent celebrate during the World Cup group B soccer match between Iran and the United States at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

"I sent him a text and checked on him, and he said, 'Best believe I'll be ready on Saturday,'" McKennie said.

Weah nearly doubled the lead in the seventh minute of first-half stoppage time but was ruled offside.

Raucous Iranian fans with horns and drums in the crowd of 42,127 filled the lower bowl behind one goal at Al Thumama Stadium, a circular venue shaped like a gahfiya, a traditional hat.

While the U.S. outshot Iran 9-0 in the first half, Iran had a 4-3 advantage in the second, knowing it needed only a draw to advance. Berhalter inserted Walker Zimmerman in the 82nd minute and shifted to a five-man defense.

Nine minutes of stoppage time were announced. Morteza Pouraliganji's diving header in the third minute went just wide. In the eighth minute, Cameron Carter-Vickers had a hand on Mehdi Taremi's shoulder as the striker slid into Matt Turner, and the ball squibbed through the goalkeeper only for Zimmerman to clear it. Spanish referee Antonio Mateu denied Iran's appeal for a video review, and the final whistle blew after the 10th extra minute.

"I hope that our fans and our people in Iran forgive us," Taremi said.

Turner gave the U.S. consecutive World Cup shutouts for the first time since 1930. Inside the locker room, teammates tried to speak with Pulisic.

"Everyone was screaming, so we couldn't really hear too, too much," Turner said. "He left everything, put everything on the line there and was able to get the ball across the line."

England 3, Wales 0

In Al Rayyan, Qatar, Marcus Rashford dropped to his knees and pointed up to the sky.

The England forward had just scored against Wales at the World Cup, starting off a 3-0 victory that sent his team into the round of 16.

His celebration, he said, was in tribute to a friend who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer. It could have also been in celebration of working his way into the starting lineup in Qatar.

"Moments like this, this is what I play football for. The biggest moments, the best moments," said Rashford, who started his first game of the tournament. "I'm happy we are going through to the next round of the tournament because I have massive ambitions for this team and I think we can play even better than we did today."

Rashford scored two goals at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, making him the co-leading scorer at the World Cup with three goals — the same as France striker Kylian Mbappe and two others. Phil Foden, another England player who made his first start in Qatar on Tuesday, got the other.

Rashford played at the last World Cup in 2018 and also at the 2020 European Championship, but the 25-year-old Manchester United forward was considered to be fortunate to make England coach Gareth Southgate's squad for this year's tournament.

Ever since his miss in the penalty shootout loss to Italy in the Euro 2020 final, Rashford has been going through a turbulent period in his career, compounded by injuries. He and teammate Bukaya Saka, both of them Black, were racially abused after missing their penalties in the shootout at Wembley Stadium.

"It has been a challenge for him," said Southgate, who also led the team to the World Cup semifinals four years ago in Russia. "I went and saw him in the summer, had a big chat with him and he had some clear ideas on things he felt he needed to think about.

"You can see with his club there has been happiness in his performances and that has shown itself on the training ground. We have a different version (of him) completely to the Euros. That's great for him and for us."

In Qatar, Southgate opted to leave Rashford and Foden on the bench in the first two matches against Iran and the United States, starting with Saka and Raheem Sterling up front alongside captain Harry Kane.

Rashford came on a substitute in the 6-2 victory over Iran and scored one of the goals. Foden played 19 minutes in that match.

Against the United States, England was held to a 0-0 draw with Rashford again coming in off the bench.

The lineup changed for the final Group B match against Wales, and both Rashford and Foden took advantage of their time on the field.

Rashford put England in the lead with a free kick in the 50th minute, and followed it with that tribute to his late friend. Foden added the second only one minute later, and Rashford made it 3-0 in the 68th.

The win guaranteed England first place in the group. The team will next face Senegal in the round of 16 on Sunday.

Netherlands 2, Qatar 0

In Al Khor, Qatar, the Netherlands still has a long way to go to match the "total football" teams of the 1970s, or even the more offensive "Oranje" squads that reached the World Cup final in 2010 and finished third in 2014.

Still, a 2-0 win over Qatar on Tuesday ensured the Dutch advanced to the round of 16 by finishing first in Group A while the Qataris, who were already eliminated, became the first host to lose all three of its group matches at the World Cup.

"If you play against Qatar everybody will think and expect that you'll win 5-0 or more, but this tournament has shown that it's very difficult," Netherlands midfielder Davy Klaassen, who earned player of the match honors, said through an interpreter.

"We're very critical of ourselves and we need to improve," Klaassen added. "But we have progressed and we're going to move on."

Cody Gakpo put the Netherlands ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in as many matches and Frenkie de Jong doubled the advantage five minutes into the second half.

The Netherlands, a three-time runner-up at the World Cup, will next face the United States for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Qatar, which was making its tournament debut, won the 2019 Asian Cup. But the team's Spanish coach, Félix Sánchez, said that the Asian Cup can't be compared to the World Cup.

"We came here trying to compete and we managed to do that," Sánchez said, adding that he wasn't sure about his future status with the team.

"One of the things about our national team is that we have a long-term plan that doesn't depend on me or anyone else," Sánchez said. "We're going to rest for a few days and we're going to keep working and planning."

The Netherlands, which failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, finished with seven points at the top of the group. Senegal, which beat Ecuador 2-1 in the other group game, advanced in second place with six points. Ecuador was eliminated with four points and Qatar ended up with zero.

The attendance at Al Bayt Stadium, which also hosted Qatar's loss to Ecuador in the tournament opener, was given as 66,784 — nearly at full capacity. There were small pockets of orange-clad Netherlands supporters, and Qatar fans behind one of the goals chanted in unison and jumped up and down.

Senegal 2, Ecuador 1

In Al Rayyan, Qatar, Kalidou Koulibaly literally drew inspiration on his captain's armband, writing the No. 19 on it in memory of one of Senegal's most loved players.

Then Koulibaly became one himself.

The Senegal captain scored the winning goal in the 2-1 victory over Ecuador on Tuesday, putting his team into the round of 16 at the World Cup despite the absence of the injured Sadio Mane, the team's best player and one of the best strikers in the world.

The No. 19 was to honor Papa Bouba Diop, the Senegal midfielder who scored the winning goal against defending champion France in the opening game of the 2002 World Cup. It was one of Senegal's greatest soccer moments and a victory that started that team's run to the quarterfinals — still Senegal's best performance.

"We wanted to make him proud. We wanted to give homage to him," Koulibaly said of Diop, who died at the age of 42 exactly two years ago Tuesday. "He was the one who made me dream when I was a boy. This was something we weren't going to let slip.

"Thank God I was there to send that ball into the back of the net."

Only a win against Ecuador would have taken Senegal through to the next round from Group A, and Koulibaly scored the goal that made it happen at Khalifa International Stadium.

A free kick from Idrissa Gueye bounced off an opponent and came his way. Koulibaly threw out his right foot and hit it past Ecuador goalkeeper Hernan Galindez in the 70th minute. Koulibaly then sprinted toward the corner flag and slid on his knees to celebrate.

The African champions took the lead after a first-half penalty from Ismaila Sarr. But Moises Caicedo evened the score when he was left unmarked after a corner kick in the 67th minute.

At 1-1, Ecuador was going to advance and Senegal was out.

Doncic, Mavs edge Curry, Warriors in West finals replay

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) attempts to get to the basket as Dallas Mavericks' Spencer Dinwiddie (26), Dorian Finney-Smith, center left, and Luka Doncic (77) defend in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

DALLAS (AP)—Tim Hardaway Jr. had to watch when his Dallas Mavericks lost to the Golden State Warriors in last season's Western Conference finals.

He found himself in the middle of some playoff intensity in their first meeting this season.

Hardaway hit a go-ahead 3-pointer late, Luka Doncic scored 41 points in his NBA-leading fifth triple-double and the Mavericks held off the Warriors 116-113 on Tuesday night.

Dallas ended a four-game losing streak, the longest in two seasons under coach Jason Kidd. Golden State, a winner in five games last spring on the way to the title, lost for just the second time in seven games after a slow start to its season.

"For me, it was," Hardaway, who missed the 2022 postseason recovering from a broken foot, said of whether he felt the playoff vibe.

"Just because of the excitement, and me not being able to play in the Western Conference finals. Just wanting to go out there and compete, have fun. Playing against the champs."

Stephen Curry scored 32 points for Golden State, including a quick-draw 3-pointer over Maxi Kleber for a 110-108 lead, but Dallas responded by scoring the next five points to go ahead for good.

Hardaway, who scored 22 points, answered Curry's 3 on Doncic's 12th and final assist with 1:49 remaining. Josh Green's short jumper came after Doncic blocked Curry's layup try.

"Hardaway's shot was the key, I thought, down the stretch," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We have to expect that teams are going to make shots against us. We're going to be circled on every team's calendar."

The Warriors were down two when Curry was called for traveling — the 10th of the game between both teams — with 10 seconds remaining.

"Bang, bang situation," Curry said. "Dumb play by me to not take the layup. I got a little confused on what the time and score was. Going for the hero shot. I didn't think it was a travel to the point where let the play run out. But who am I to say?"

Golden State had one more chance after Dorian Finney-Smith missed one of two free throws to keep the deficit at three. Klay Thompson got a good look off for 3, but the shot was short as Curry's Splash Brother finished 1 of 6 from deep with five points.

Doncic also had 12 rebounds in his 51st career triple-double.

Jonathan Kuminga had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Golden State, which trailed by 17 in the first quarter but took its first lead before halftime.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 14 points for Dallas before he was ejected for a flagrant-2 penalty when his elbow hit Jordan Poole in the face on an offensive foul early in the fourth quarter.

Clippers 118, Trail Blazers 112

In Portland, Ore., Norman Powell scored 22 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, sending the Clippers to the road victory.

Reggie Jackson had 24 points and 12 assists, helping the Clippers to their second straight win. Ivica Zubac added 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Los Angeles trailed 95-82 after three quarters, but outscored Portland 36-17 in the final period. Powell, a reserve, was 7 for 9 from the field in the fourth.

Portland wasted a terrific performance by Anfernee Simons, who made nine 3-pointers and scored 37 points. Jerami Grant had 32 points.

Knicks 140, Pistons 110

In Detroit, Julius Randle scored a season-high 36 points, and the Knicks extended their win streak against the Pistons to 11 games.

Quentin Grimes, RJ Barrett and Jalen Brunson each scored 16 points for New York, which had lost four of five. Mitchell Robinson grabbed 13 rebounds, and reserve Immanuel Quickley had 15 points.

Isaiah Stewart scored 19 points for Detroit, which hasn't beaten New York since Jan. 7, 2020. Bojan Bogdanovic and Marvin Bagley III each had 13 points.

The Pistons were missing two starters — Cade Cunningham (shin) and Jalen Ivey (knee) — but Bogdanovic and Stewart returned from injuries.

Analysis: Early NBA MVP race has crowded field of candidates

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic may just be putting together his best season.

It still may not be enough to get the Denver Nuggets' big man a third straight NBA MVP.

Chalk that up to MVP fatigue. Or to the glaringly good numbers of a crowded field of early candidates, including Luka Doncic, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Jayson Tatum and Stephen Curry.

Jokic isn't having to shoulder as much of the load with the return this season of fellow Nuggets stars Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr. He's also taken his unselfish play to another level, which may not do him any favors in the MVP race, but it sure does help the Nuggets.

That's just fine with coach Michael Malone. He'll gladly take this version of the player nicknamed "Joker," the one averaging a career-best 8.8 assists to go with 23 points and 9.8 rebounds through the first quarter of the season.

"I don't worry about the MVP buzz," said Malone, whose team moved to 13-7 after a 129-113 win over Houston on Monday night where Jokic had 32 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists. "If we continue to win, Nikola is going to be in the MVP conversation because of the fact that he impacts the game on so many different levels."

Last season, Jokic put up 27.1 points, 13.8 rebounds, 7.9 assists because that was the best way for Denver to win. The Nuggets didn't have Murray (knee) and barely had Porter (back).

These days, Jokic lets the game dictate which stat category he dominates. Sometimes, it's through his pinpoint passes. Others, with his deft shooting touch.

To illustrate: He took nine shots and had 14 assists in a win at Oklahoma City on Nov. 3. Twenty days later, and back at Oklahoma City, he erupted 39 points in another win.

Jokic is trying to join the company of Larry Bird, Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell as players who've each won the MVP award in three straight seasons. But Jokic is well down the odds list of early favorites.

Antetokounmpo and Doncic are both the favorites at +280, according FanDuel Sportsbook. Behind Tatum, Curry, Joel Embiid, Donovan Mitchell, Ja Morant and tied with Kevin Durant, is Jokic (+2700).

Nuggets point guard Ish Smith, who's crossed paths with former league MVPs Russell Westbrook and Durant during his 13-team excursion, has a theory of why Jokic is not a front-runner.

"People like to see something different. He's a two-time MVP, so obviously people are advocating for Luka, he's playing at a high level. Giannis, too," Smith said. "Sometimes people like the new 'It,' the new thing."

Much like Jokic last season, Doncic needs to produce in a big way for the Mavericks to succeed. He is, too, averaging 33.1 points, 8.7 rebounds and 8.4 assists.

Antetokounmpo, a two-time MVP winner, is on pace for his highest scoring average (30.9). Curry, another two-time winner, continues to shoot lights out from everywhere — 52.2% from the floor, 44.1% from 3-point range and 91.1% from the free throw line. Then there's Tatum, who's averaging more than 30 points a game as his Celtics have won a league-best 17 games.

The Nuggets don't mind the throwback play of Jokic, who has the most triple-doubles of any center in NBA history.

"He's such a dominant force," Smith said. "He's pretty special."

Unassuming, too. Smith caught a glimpse of that when a few of the Nuggets attended a Los Angeles Dodgers-Padres game while in San Diego for training camp. There was Jokic, just walking around like any ordinary baseball fan.

That's just his personality. Don't forget: He accepted the MVP trophy last season from his horse stable in Sombor, Serbia.

"He's not flashy. I love it," Smith said of Jokic, the second-round pick in the 2014 draft. "I don't think I've ever been around a superstar like that."

Malone doesn't have any plans to talk with Jokic about being more aggressive. No need.

"I trust Nikola," Malone said. "He's proven over eight years that he's going to make the right play time and time again. ... He knows how to play the game. He knows when he needs to be aggressive and score for us.

"The beauty of having a player with his unselfishness and IQ is just trusting him to make the right play over and over and over again. As a back-to-back MVP, he's done that better than most."

The return of Murray and Porter (who's currently dealing with a bruised heel) has cut down on some of Jokic's responsibilities, which may not help Jokic's MVP chances but could help him accomplish something he hasn't done: win an NBA title.

The last time Jokic, Murray and Porter were all on the court for the playoffs, the Nuggets made it to the Western Conference Finals (inside the bubble in 2020).

"I don't want him to be at the top of his level now," teammate and friend Vlatko Cancar said. "I need him to be at the top of his level when the playoffs come."

Mavs unclear on timeline for Walker as 4-time All-Star signs

DALLAS (AP)—The timeline for Kemba Walker to contribute for the Dallas Mavericks is uncertain as the four-time All-Star joins a roster in need of playmaking help behind superstar Luka Doncic.

Walker went unsigned the first six weeks of the season before the 32-year-old guard was officially added by Dallas on Tuesday. Plagued by knee injuries in recent years, Walker hasn't played since Feb. 16.

Speaking before Tuesday night's game against Golden State, coach Jason Kidd said the club hoped to get Walker on the court for practice Wednesday.

Dallas signed Walker in the midst of a four-game losing streak and a stretch of seven games in 11 days before the next time the team gets multiple days off.

"The train doesn't stop," Kidd said. "We'll get him caught up to speed. He's a vet. He's been in this league. And we'll hopefully put him in a position that he can be successful."

The skid dropped the Mavericks under .500 after going to the Western Conference finals last season.

Dallas lost Jalen Brunson to the New York Knicks in free agency after he flourished playing next to Doncic, and Brunson played a big role in playoff victories without the three-time All-Star.

The loss of Brunson also cost the Mavericks one of their two primary ballhandlers behind Doncic. Spencer Dinwiddie has had to carry most of that load this season.

The shooters around Doncic also have been struggling, with Dorian Finney-Smith, Reggie Bullock and Tim Hardaway Jr. going in and out of slumps so far.

Walker was limited to 37 games last season, his only one with the New York Knicks, because of knee issues that have been affecting him for years.

The No. 9 overall pick in 2011, Walker blossomed as an All-Star in the last three of eight seasons with Charlotte before he signed as a free agent with Boston.

Walker played most of the pandemic-altered 2019-20 season, the last of five consecutive seasons in which he averaged at least 20 points per game. It was also the last of his four All-Star nods.

Walker played just 43 games in his second season with the Celtics before an offseason trade to the Knicks.

JTM Saipan routs Padrino in Legends caging

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
JTM Saipan's Ryan Bayna attacks the defense of two Padrino Tuesday Club players in their open division game in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

JTM Saipan routed upstart Padrino Tuesday Club, 100-75, in the open division of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

Thanks to the blazing hands of Ryan Bayna, JTM Saipan got off to a jackrabbit start and opened with a 22-12 lead after one quarter of play.

JTM Saipan would only build on their double-digit spread in the second, burying the erstwhile undefeated Padrino under an avalanche of points to enter the halftime break with a stout 44-28 advantage.

Padrino would rally in the third canto to trim their deficit to a mere 7 points, 64-57, but lost steam at the end as JTM Saipan dropped a 26-18 bomb on them in the fourth.

Bayna top-scored for JTM Saipan with a season-high 39 points, while center Jonel Broncano ably backed him up with 26 markers to the now 2-1 team.

Mark Ocampo paced Padrino in their first loss in three games with 14 points, while Darren Alviz tossed in 12 in support.

In other open division games, NAPA Auto Parts improved to 2-1 after a waylaying Al-Ger Manpower, 83-64. It was the third loss in as many games for Al-Ger Manpower.

Blue Haus, meanwhile, remained unscathed after thrashing Marianas Health Services, 77-44, for its third straight win to start the league. MHS absorbed their third loss in as many tries.

Changming Market caught Blue Haus atop the open division with its third win against zero losses when it dealt Pacific Best Choice its first loss in three games, 84-61.

Vizion Insurance won its first game when it outlasted Pepoy's Rest Cafe, 88-82, to make it to the winner's circle at 1-2. Pepoy's Rest Cafe is still winless after three games.

In the masters division, JSN Construction escaped the upset ax when it survived Vizion Insurance, 87-86.

Vizion Insurance trailed by 4 points, 87-83 following a split from the line by JSN Construction main man Jorge De Guzman.

Rodney Catalla made a booming triple to make it a 1-point lead with 30 seconds left and JSN Construction held on to the ball until time expired to hike its record to 3-0. Vizion Insurance fell to 1-2.

In the other masters game, Blue Haus rebounded from last week's loss to JSN Construction after blasting Legends Elite, 106-86. Blue Haus is now at 2-1, while Legends Elite is still searching for its first win in three games.

JTM Saipan 100 – Bayna 39, Jone. Broncano 26, Torres 19, Ruiz 6, Jona. Broncano 4, Rodriguez 3, Garcia 2.

Padrino Tuesday Club 75 – Ocampo 14, Alviz 12, Aparte 10, Atencio 10, Javier 3, Agustin 3, Galang 2, Mamaril 2, Glenn 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 44-28, 64-57, 100-75.

Little League meeting on Dec. 3

The Saipan Little League will be holding an important meeting this Saturday, Dec. 3, 10am at the Department of Public Works conference room.

Items to be discussed is the upcoming opening of the 2023 Little League Season. All managers are requested to bring and submit their official roster and other pertinent documents during this meeting.

Interested individuals who would like to assist in the program through the board of directors are also encouraged to attend this important meeting. Other important matters will also be discussed during this meeting. Should you have any questions, contact Annie Flores at (670) 285-1219 or Frank Ada at (670) 285-5657. ***(PR)***

SIBLING

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ers brought over an exciting show! Those riders gave us a fun show to put on. Racing with them this year is probably my favorite race throughout the year!" said the 13-year-old from Dandan Middle School.

Billie also raced in the Minis II Class won by New Zealand's Richard Wenden, but came in third with 38 points. Wenden was perfect in the division with 50 points, followed by Guam's John Aguon with 42 points.

"Racing with the two boys from Guam in the Minis II was definitely fun and challenging. Being able to race with new riders was a wonderful experience! I was able to learn a few things from them!" she added.

Billie thanked her sponsors Team Ericco, Pokka, Marianas Native, and Joeten Motors Co. She also acknowledged the support of her family.

"I want to dedicate this win to my parents, Abby and Glen Pangelinan. They've made this whole thing possible from the beginning. I couldn't thank them enough for their continuous support for my favorite sport!"

For his part, Corry won the Intermediate Class with another perfect 50 points. He was followed by two Guam riders—Abraham Guerrero and Zachary Cruz with 42 points and 40 points, respectively.

"I'm really proud of myself for maintaining my lead. I was really nervous at first because they looked really intimidating. But overall I'm just really proud to say that I won against Guam," he said when asked about last weekend's race.

The 18-year-old senior from Marianas High School also said it was a thrill to finally race against Guam's best riders.

"It was fun having Guam over to come and race here on Saipan. I really enjoyed racing against some of Guam's fastest riders. They are very well trained and super fast, I wish to race with them again soon," he said.

The elder Pangelinan dedicated his victory to his family, friends, and to everyone who supported him throughout the races (Justice Trolii Ngewakl and his pit crew). He also thanked his sponsors, namely Ericco Racing Team, Pokka, Forever CNMI, Marianas Native, Joeten Motors Co., Herman's Bakery, and YCO Hardware True Value.

In the Mama Class, Maribel Igitol won both heats to finish on top with 50 points. Mari Alvarez came in second with 44 points, while Marissa Rasa finished third with 40 points.

In the Peewee I, Guam finished 1-2 with Kiko Grey accumulating 50 points and Kyan Mayo getting 44 points.

Keenon Togawa won the Pewee II Class with 50 points with Guam's Cason Brooks the runner-up with 44 points.

In the Minis I Class, Guam again got the checkered flag with Alize Mondia getting a perfect 50 points. The visitors actually swept the competition with Talen San Nicolas and Daniel Salas completing the Top 3 with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

In all, CNMI riders won nine of the 14 divisions in the Turkey Cross Race. Results of the other divisions will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

REYES

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broke with an opening attempt of 252.5 kgs/556 lbs. Reyes now holds the state record with his successful third attempt of 267.5 kgs/589.7 lbs. His second attempt was 262.5 kgs/578.7 lbs.

Along with completing all squat attempts successfully, Reyes also successfully completed all three bench press attempts, while completing two out of three deadlifts for an overall lift of 672.6 kgs/1,483.083 lbs, and securing the fourth place spot overall out of 10 competitors.

Reyes' bench press attempts are 140 kgs/308.6 lbs, 145 kgs/319.6 lbs and 150 kgs/330.6 lbs. His deadlifts are 242.5 kgs/534.6 lbs, 255 kgs/562.1 lbs, and his failed attempt of 267.5 kgs/589.7 lbs.

Reyes, via email, said on his last deadlift attempt that "if they gave me my last deadlift I would have walked away with a bronze medal. I got two red lights for downward motion of the bar but after reviewing numerous videos, there was actually no downward motion."

The co-owner of Pacific Mist LLC said, "my goal two years ago was to be a state record-holder. Now that I have it, the next goal will be to compete at a regional meet and qualify for nationals."

Throughout 14 weeks, the National Academy of Sports Medicine-certified personal trainer and powerlifting coach said that he was self-coached throughout the meet preparation.

"I would like to thank Marianas Native for the continued support and for the gear they have given me throughout the year; my significant other, Mercedes Deleon Guerrero, for encouraging me every day to be the best that I can be; my parents Roman Reyes Sr. and Francisca M. Reyes for the unconditional love and support since I have started this journey," said Reyes.

On Dec. 5, 2020, Reyes placed third in the 2020 USA Powerlifting Mecca's Holiday Hoist event in Meridian, Idaho.

SOLD

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ity tournament chairman said, "we do have a full field—144 players," which was greeted by applause from the sponsors in attendance.

Both owners then thanked the sponsors and handed them plaques of appreciation for their donations.

Jose Ayuyu, for his part, said "on behalf of my wife, Marcia, and Ben, outstanding job Ben, thank you so much."

"Giving back to the community, especially families in need, will always be one of our top priorities," he said.

Marcia Ayuyu said, "thank you so much for all your support and your donations… This year, the beneficiaries will be Make-A-Wish Foundation, Karidat Social Services, Ronald McDonald House, and the Salvation Army.

Natalie Mabel Ayuyu-Glenn, executive assistant to the president of McDonald's, said after the event that this year's tournament is different from last year because of the new Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, Inc., named after her parents, Jose and Marcia "Ruri" Ayuyu.

She said, "I'm hoping that that will be the legacy that my parents can leave behind for the next generation, people like myself, to inspire us for hope and the idea of giving back. They were the pioneers and… through this foundation we hope to continue that legacy of giving back… the foundation is all about supporting programs, initiatives, events that keep families together, and we feel like these beneficiaries that we selected, really try their best to keep families together in some sort of way, so that's the whole idea behind the foundation."

For golfers, cash prizes will be up for grabs for first, second and third place in each flight from champion to seniors.

Luxury vehicles from Atkins Kroll, Triple J Auto Group, and Joeten Motors and cash prize from Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. are offered for the player who hits a hole-in-one at the designated holes, for a total prize value of over $200,000 combined.

Gold sponsors are Stay Well Insurance, *Pacific Daily News*, MarPac Inc., Bank of Guam, KSPN2, Coca-Cola Beverage Company in CNMI, Bank of Saipan; silver sponsors are ASC Trust, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Bank of Hawaii, Matson Navigation, United Airlines, Bridge Capital LLC, Mobil Oil Marianas, Power 99, Micronesia Air Cargo Services, Guahan Waste Control, and IT&E; and bronze sponsors are Docomo Pacific, Herman's Bakery, Chong's Corp., RNV Construction, Saipan Computer Services, Westco, Sanford Technology Group, Megabyte, and Yaong Corp.

Registration is now full and on a waitlist basis only. For up-to-date information on the golf classic, visit the website www.mcdonaldsguamandsaipan.com or call McDonald's Saipan office at 670-235-8761.

Pulisic goal advances US with 1-0 win over Iran

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Sports

JTM Saipan routs Padrino in Legends caging

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Sibling supremacy in Turkey Cross

ANDO AGULTO
Billie Inabo Pangelinan in action in the Power Puff Class of last weekend's Turkey Cross Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

LAO ZHANG
Corry Pangelinan in action in the Intermediate Class of last weekend's Turkey Cross Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Billie Inabo Pangelinan proved to all and sundry that she's the best woman rider in the Marianas, while her older brother, Corry, continued his perfection in the Intermediate Class after both crushed the opposition in last weekend's Turkey Cross Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

Taking all comers from the Marianas Racing Association and Guam International Raceway Motorcycle and ATV Club, Billie won both heats in the Power Puff Girls Class for a perfect 50 points on Saturday and Sunday.

Nanako Celis came in second with 44 points, while Guam's Jo'naye Cruz completed the Top 3 with 40 points. Shaniah Alvarez completed the racers' list with 36 points.

The reigning MRA Rider of the Year said she just tried her usual best in the Turkey Cross Race and her primary motivation was just to enjoy.

"I feel that I had an excellent performance throughout the races, and I mainly just wanted to have fun! I definitely had a wonderful time racing with the Power Puff Class! The Guam rac-

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Sold-out McDonald's Golf Classic tees off Saturday

LEIGH GASES
McDonald's Guam and Saipan owner Jose "Joe" Ayuyu and his wife, Marcia, hosted a sponsors appreciation cocktail last Tuesday at their Papago home and thanked each one of them personally for their donations to the 2nd Annual McDonald's Golf Classic this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The 2nd Annual McDonald's Golf Classic has sold out three weeks prior and is set and ready for tee time this Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course with 144 golfers from the CNMI and Guam.

Before the awarding of plaques at a cocktail reception in McDonald's Guam and Saipan owners Jose "Joe" and Marcia Ayuyus' home in Papago, Ben Babauta, golf char-

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Reyes is record-holder in powerlifting comp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan-born Roman Reyes Jr. is now the Idaho State squat record-holder with a successful lift of 267.5 kgs/589.7 lbs.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan-born Roman Reyes Jr. is making tidal waves in the sport of powerlifting after shattering the Idaho State Squat record on his first attempt in the Corrupted Strength Classic 2022 held in Houston, Texas last Nov. 5.

Weighing in at 98.3 kgs, the 22-year-old Reyes competed in the 100-kg juniors division and finished fourth overall in a competitive class.

The state record was 250 kgs/551 lbs, which Reyes

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